

Holocaust in Manila

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CHAPTER 1

History of the Philippines

Little is known of the early human settlement of the Philippines. Scientific evidence remains inconclusive. It is generally accepted that the first significant human settlement occurred sometime during the most recent ice age, the Pleistocene Epoch. At that time the sea levels were lower, creating land bridges that connected the Southeast Asian mainland to some of the present-day islands of the Malay Archipelago, south of the Philippine Islands. Historians theorize that Paleolithic hunters from the mainland may have followed herds of wild animals across these land bridges, later finding their way to the Philippine Islands.

Some of these early migrations to the Philippine Islands were made by the ancestors of the present-day people of the Aeta and Agta tribes. These people continue to be primary hunters and food gatherers, much as their ancestors were thousands of years ago. They are one of the world's few remaining Pygmies, who are characterized by shorter-than-average height. The Spanish colonizers of the 16th century called them Negritos, a term that is still widely used today.

People of the Malay descent, who now makes up the majority of the population, are believed to have settled in the Philippines in several waves of migrations after the 3rd century BC. Their

languages developed independently because they settled in wide scattered villages, or *barangay*. Each barangay included from 30 to 100 families and was ruled by a *dau*, or chieftain. The economy was of subsistence, with each village producing most of what it needed, and land was held in common. The villagers engaged in both shifting (slash-and-burn) and settled agriculture. Religion was animistic, or based on the worship on ancestors and other spirits, such as nature deities.

Communities in the islands eventually established trade contacts with states in East and Southeast Asia, particularly China. By the 12th century AD the powerful Sumatra-based Malay kingdom of Sri Vijaya had extended its considerable influence to the Philippines. In the 14th century traders and settlers from Malay Peninsula and Borneo introduced Islam to the southern islands of the Sulu Archipelago. In the 15th century Islam was established in the island of Mindanao. By the 16th century the islands had several Muslim principalities, including one in the Manila area of Luzon. However, no major political entity - kingdom, sultanate, or empire - was established in the islands until the imposition of Spanish rule in the 16th century.

Arrival of Europeans

In 1521 a Spanish expedition led by the explorer and navigator Ferdinand Magellan made the first recorded European contact with the Philippine Islands. Magellan was on a mission for Spanish King Charles 1 (also Holy Roman-emperor as Charles V) to establish a westward route to the Moluccas, also known as Spice Islands. Located south of the Philippines in present-day Indonesia, these islands were prized for their spices in the trade rivalry between Spain and Portugal, the foremost powers of the time. Magellan's ships reached the Philippine Islands on an immediate leg of the voyage, which ultimately accomplished the first circumnavigation of the world. On the Philippine Island of Zugbo (now Cebu), Magellan secured the baptism of the local chieftain, Lapulapu's warriors, in defending their

island, killed Magellan. Lapulapu is remembered as a national hero for successfully resisting the first European invasion of the Philippines.

Other expeditions followed as Spain sought to establish trade routes across the Pacific from its new colonies in the Americas. Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, the commander of an expedition that sailed from New Spain (now Mexico) in 1542, claimed the islands for Spain and named them *Ilas Filipinas*, in honor of Charles 1's son and heir Philip, who reigned as Philip II of Spain from 1556 to 1598.

Spanish Settlement and Rule

The first Permanent settlement in the Philippines was established on Cebu in 1556 by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, a Spanish expedition commander. This settlement, at present-day Cebu City, became the capital of the new Spanish colony, with Legazpi as its first governor. In 1571 Spanish forces defeated the Muslim ruler Rajah Soliman, who controlled an area of Luzon that contained an ideal harbor for Spanish trade. There Legazpi named Manila as the new capital of the Spanish colony. Within a few years Spanish authority extended over much of Luzon and the central Visayan Islands. As a by-product of this conquest, Spain discovered the best route back to New Spain was via the Japan Current, which took sailing ships north past Japan and then south along the Americas coasts. This new route compelled the newly emergent power of Japan, the Tokugawa dynasty, to close Japan to outside contact for 250 years.

The Philippines was Spain's only colony in Asia. It was ruled as a *gobernacion*, a territory administered by a governor, and was officially subordinate to the Spanish viceroy of New Spain. Spain initially had three principal objectives in colonizing the islands: to secure a share of the spice trade in the Moluccas, to provide a base from which to convert Asians to Christianity, and to convert the people of the Philippine Islands. Spain never realized the first two objectives and only partially succeeded in the third. Most of the lowland population was rapidly converted to Christianity, while

the upland tribes were only nominally converted. The Muslims of southern Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago were never baptized and actively resisted Spanish rule for more than 300 years.

As in Spanish America, the various Roman Catholic religious orders - Augustinians Franciscans, Dominicans, and Jesuits - were in charge of the conversion to Christianity. In accordance with the terms of the *patronato real*, or royal patronage of the Catholic Church, the government assumed the financial burden of evangelization, paying a stipend to each missionary and subsidizing missionary work. It acquired in return the privilege of nominating the occupants of all-important ecclesiastical post and regularly assigned to friars, or parish priests, civil as well as religious functions. Over time, the religious orders also gained large areas of land through donations from the Spanish colonial elite (the *principalia*, or "principal ones"), and many indigenous parishioners worked for the friars as tenant farmers.

Manila Galleons and Spanish Trade

Although Spain did not capture a share of the profitable Moluccas spice trade, it did use the Philippines as a base for trade between Asia and the Americas and as a way to challenge the Portuguese maritime monopoly. Manila played an important role as a port for the Manila galleons, huge Spanish trading ships that voyaged between Manila and Acapulco, on the west coast of New Spain. The galleons sailed from Manila with Chinese goods, mainly silk textiles and porcelain, and returned from Acapulco with silver bullion and minted coins, which purchased more Chinese goods. The galleon trade was a government monopoly that had exclusive trading rights with the Philippines, and no direct trade with Spain was allowed. The colonial treasury of the Philippines received a subsidy, consisting mainly of customs duties paid at Acapulco, that formed an economically important community in Manila by the 1590s. They outnumbered the Spanish and were subject to residence restrictions and periodic deportations.

In 1762, when Spain became involved in the Seven Years War

on the side of France against Great Britain, the British East India Company captured Manila. The treaty that ended the war restored Manila to Spain in 1764. The British occupation, although brief, exposed the resentment of Spanish authority and discrimination felt by the local peoples, especially the Chinese, some of whom openly supported the British. After Spanish rule was restored, the colonial government implemented a series of reforms to promote the economic development of the islands through commercial agriculture and household industries. The establishment of a state monopoly of the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of tobacco in 1782, enabled the colonial government to balance its budget and send substantial subsidies to Spain. The galleon trade, already much diminished, ended in 1815. Trade was opened to the world, and the links to Latin America weakened rapidly after Spain's colonies there won independence.

Open Trade and the New Filipino Elite

In the 19th century the Industrial Revolution transformed the world. Modern methods of production and transportation, notably sugar mills and steamships, opened the Philippines for economic. British, French, and North American traders began to demand Philippine agricultural products, including sugar, cigars, and abaca (Manila hemp). Sugar became the leading export crop. In 1834 Spain lifted restrictions on trade between foreign nations and the Philippines.

Chinese Merchants in Manila helped to finance and shape the new export opportunities, often acting as intermediaries between foreign traders and local producers. In 1839 the colonial government issued a decree granting Chinese freedom of occupation and residence. Many Chinese emigrated to the Philippines after the Taiping rebellion (1851-1864) in China. Aware of the political and social advantages enjoyed by the Roman Catholics in the colony, many Chinese converted to Catholicism and married Filipina women. Their descendants, called

mestizos (a Spanish term for racially mixed people), were readily accepted by society. Through the acquisition of land, they became an economically privileged class in the new cash-crop economy. These mestizos formed the major component of a new Filipino elite of planters, merchant, and civil servants.

Filipino Resistance to Colonial Rule

In 1863 the colonial government introduced a system of free primary-school education. Institutions of higher learning remained limited, however, and only a few admitted non-Spaniards. The new Filipino elite became known as *ilustrados* (Spanish for “the enlightened ones”) because they could afford higher education. Some *ilustrados* studied abroad in Spain.

By the second half of the 19th century the *ilustrados* had begun to agitate for reform in both the civil and ecclesiastical establishments. In Spain the revolution of 1868 had produced a democratic constitution that provided for equality and civil and political rights. In the Philippines the *ilustrados* asked that these rights be extended to Filipinos. Filipino priests also agitated for reforms. They wanted the church to follow official Vatican policy, which dictated that religious orders would relinquish control to indigenous diocesan priests in places that had been successfully converted to Christianity. They conducted many functions of government on the local level, controlled education at all levels, and were the largest landowners. They resented that Filipino priests were questioning their influence, and their response was increasingly racist. They successfully resisted the local movement to replace them.

Filipino Reformists

In 1872 the colonial government arrested hundreds of *ilustrados* and priests after an uprising by workers at the military fort at Cavite. Three Filipino priests were convicted of organizing the uprising and executed. This crackdown by the colonial authorities intensified the

nationalist character of the reform movement. Filipino liberal who were sent into exile in Europe and *ilustrados* attending European universities formed the Propaganda Movement, using publications such as *La Solidaridad* (Solidarity) to call for social and political reform. The Filipino intellectuals Graciano Lopez Jaena, M.H. del Pilar, and Jose Rizal were the foremost leaders of the movement. Rizal's novels *Noli Me Tangere* (1886; Touch Me Not, translated 1961) and *El Filibusterismo* (1891; The Subversive, translated 1962) exposed to the world the injustices imposed on Filipinos under the colonial regime.

Katipunan Revolutionaries

By the time Rizal returned to Manila in 1892, it was apparent that Spain, itself in the throes of domestic unrest, was willing to undertake substantial colonial reforms. Considered a threat to the colonial regime, Rizal was arrested shortly after his return and sent into exile on Mindanao. Soon after Rizal's exile, Andres Bonifacio, a self-educated man of the urban working class, organized a secret society called Katipunan. The Katipunan, which advocated revolution rather than reform, gained popular base of support, with membership concentrated among urban and rural workers. Spanish officials discovered, through an informant parish priest, the existence of the Katipunan in August 1896. Bonifacio, realizing the Katipunan could no longer hide its activity, proclaimed the beginning of the revolution. Katipunan members first attacked Spanish military installations, and then the insurrection spread throughout the provinces of central Luzon. Rizal was arrested and convicted by a military tribunal on fabricated charges of involvement with the Katipunan. His execution by a firing squad on December 30 merely served to spread the revolt of the entire country. Rizal, as a martyr, became the ultimate symbol of Filipino nationalism.

Leadership of the Katipunan passed from Bonifacio to its most successful general, Emilio Aguinaldo, a former schoolteacher. A year

of fighting between Katipunan forces, which the guerrilla tactics and government troops ended in a negotiated truce. In accordance with the pact, Aguinaldo and his staff went into voluntary exile in Hong Kong, while the Spanish authorities promised reforms within three years.

The Spanish American War

In April 1898, war broke out between Spain and the United States over their competing imperial interests in Cuba, than also a Spanish colony where an independent movement was taking place. In May US Commodore. (later promoted to Admiral) George Dewey commanded the Asiatic Squadron into Manila Bay, where it easily destroyed the antiquated Spanish fleet at anchor there. Lacking adequate ground troops, however, Dewey sent for Aguinaldo in Hong Kong and encouraged him to reactivate his rebel forces.

Aguinaldo believed the United States would help Filipinos achieve independence. He organized a revolutionary government that issued a declaration of independence on June 12, and his forces surrounded the Spanish garrison at Manila. By that time, Manila had become the focus of the Spanish-American war. Negotiations between US military commanders and the Spanish governor resulted in a secret agreement to end the conflict in a mock battle, staged in August, in which Spanish forces surrendered control of Manila. The arrangement specifically excluded the Filipino nationalists, Aguinaldo had meanwhile established a capital at the Luzon city of Malolos, and in September his government convened a constituent assembly to draft a constitution.

Peace negotiations between Spain and the United States began in late September. By the treaty of Paris, signed in December, Spain ceded the Philippines and other territories to the United States. In return, the United States gave Spain \$20 million. United States president William McKinley then issued a proclamation declaring US Policy to be one of "benevolent assimilation."

The Filipinos refused to recognize the transfer of sovereignty, however, and fighting broke out on February 4, 1899. More than 125,000 American soldiers eventually went into combat in the conflict known as the Philippine-American War. Filipino troops, who used tactics of guerrilla warfare, were of indeterminate numbers. United States forces soon secured major ports, lowland areas and urban centers. Malolos fell to the United States in March 1899. With the capture of Aguinaldo in March 1901, organized Filipino resistance collapsed and the war ended. More than 4,000 American and 16,000 Filipino soldiers died in combat, while thousands of Filipino civilians died from the effects of the war, including famine and disease.

United States Rule

The United States moved quickly to establish a political administration in the Philippines. In 1901 William Howard Taft, later president of the United States, was appointed the first civilian governor-general, replacing the military governor, General Arthur MacArthur. The governor-general was vested with executive power and served as head of the Philippine commission, a body appointed by the US president that served as an executive cabinet and held legislative powers. The commission passed many new laws to set up the fundamentals of a national government, including a judicial system, legal code, civil service, and police force. Elections were held for municipal and provincial governments and political and bureaucratic positions were open to Filipinos. In 1907 an elected legislative assembly became the lower house of a bicameral legislature. The appointed Philippine Commission formed the upper house. In 1916 an elected senate replaced the commission. Monetary, military, and foreign policies were controlled by the US Congress and president. In all other matters, bills passed by the new legislature became law upon approval by the governor-general.

Elites, Education, and Economy

The United States defined and justified its colonial role as one of tutelage; that is, preparing the Philippines for eventual independence. While a few Filipinos remained opposed to American colonial control, virtually all of the ilustrados, who made up the educated and wealthy classes, saw economic and political opportunity under American tutelage. Many of the US policies in the Philippines reinforced the dominant position of the ilustrados within Philippine society. Most of the vast landholdings of the friar estates, which the civilian administration purchased from the Vatican in 1904, were sold to members to the already wealthy ilustrado elite. Most agricultural workers, meanwhile, continued to toil the land as tenants. In addition, most government positions at all levels were by ilustrados, who were able to wield their wealth and influence to gain political power.

Education was touted as the means by which all Filipinos achieve a rising standard of living. The United States established a national public school system, building on the existing parochial schools. Thousands of American teachers arrived to teach courses in the secularized and expanded system. English was the primary medium of instruction. Filipinos from every walk of life sought a secular education, and functional literacy increased from about 20 percent in 1909 to 50 percent in 1941. A middle class developed as upward mobility presented new, but still limited opportunities.

Unrestricted free trade between the Philippines and the United States established in 1913, had a decisive influence on the Philippine economy, which became an agricultural export economy producing sugar, abaca, copra, and tobacco for the US market. Except for gold mining, there was little development of industry; manufactured goods were supplied by the United States on a duty free basis. Economic development under US rule tended to encourage large landholdings among a relatively small elite, leading to an increase in tenant farming among landless peasants. The global economic depression of the 1930s worsened the plight of the rural population.

The United States also established military garrisons in the Philippines, which became a strategic base for US Forces in the Pacific. The deep-water harbor at Subic Bay, near Manila, became a major anchorage for the US naval fleet. The cavalry base at Fort Stotsenberg in central Luzon was transformed into an air-force installation, (Clark Air Base).

Shifting American Policies

United States policies soon began to influence the course of events in the islands. Taft and his immediate successors were unwilling to delegate full authority to the Filipinos. With the election of Woodrow Wilson to the United States presidency in 1912, a new policy was adopted. In 1916 the Jones Act instituted an elected Philippine senate and promised eventual independence. These moves, however, were slowed with the election of Warren G. Harding as president of the United States in 1920. The following year Harding appointed a commission, headed by General Leonard Wood, to investigate the political and economic situation in the islands. The commission reported that immediate independence would be disastrous both for the Filipino people and for US interests in the Western Pacific. Wood, who was appointed governor-general of the Philippines in 1921, found himself bitterly opposed by Filipino advocates of independence. The call for independence was led within the political establishment by Manuel Luis Quezon, president of the Philippine Senate; Sergio Osmena, speaker of the House of Representatives before 1922; and Manuel Roxas, the speaker after 1922. These politicians belonged to the Nationalist Party, which dominated Philippine politics from its founding in 1907 until the emergence of the Liberal Party after World War II ended in 1945.

Commonwealth of the Philippines

With the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 as president of the United States, the official policy changed once again. On

January 13, 1933 the congress of the United States passed the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Bill granting the Philippines independence after 12 years, but reserving military and naval bases for the United States and imposing tariffs and quotas on Philippine exports. The bill was rejected by Quezon for domestic political advantage. The Philippine Senate then advocated a new bill that won Roosevelt's support. The resulting Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 stipulated that the Philippines would become an independent republic on July 4, 1946. Until then a commonwealth government, with a constitution and an elected Filipino president, would have autonomy in all affairs except foreign policy. In November 1935 the commonwealth government was inaugurated with Quezon as president and Osmena as vice president.

World War II and Japanese Occupation

On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, marking the beginning of Japan's involvement in World War II. Just 10 hours later, Japanese forces struck Clark Air Base in the Philippines, destroying the American B-17 bombers stationed there. Japanese ground troops entered Luzon at Lingayen Gulf on December 22 and occupied Manila on January 2, 1942.

Just before the Pearl Harbor attack, President Roosevelt recalled General MacArthur into active service, making him commander in chief of the Allied forces in the Philippines. MacArthur was a former US chief of staff who was in the Philippines serving as field marshal, at Quezon's invitation, to help build a commonwealth army. MacArthur withdrew his forces, which includes many Filipino soldiers, to the island fortress of Corregidor, in Manila Bay, and nearby Bataan Peninsula. The United States, at the time concentrating its forces in Europe, lacked the fleet that MacArthur hoped for to fight the war in the Philippines. In 1942, when it became clear that the American forces were being completely overwhelmed at Bataan and Corregidor, Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to evacuate Quezon and Osmena and

directed him to lead the war against Japan from Australia. The American and Filipino troops who were left behind surrendered at Bataan in April and Corregidor in May. The Japanese forced their prisoners of war on an infamous Death March across treacherous terrain to a prison camp near Cabunatuan. Thousands of American and Filipino soldiers died of malnutrition, illness, and torture.

While Quezon set up a government-in exile in the United States, the Japanese secured the collaboration of some officials who stayed behind. In 1943 Japan recognized a nominally Philippine republic with Jose P. Laurel as president.

Although some Filipinos became collaborators, others waged guerrilla warfare against the Japanese. Across the archipelago, guerrilla bands organized into a highly effective guerrilla movement aided by the fragmented island geography and inaccessibility of mountain bases. Formed in 1942, the Hukbalahaps, or Huks were one of the most effective guerrilla groups. The Huk forces were primarily the rural poor of central and southern Luzon.

When MacArthur returned to the Philippines in October 1944, it was as commander of a massive invasion force. The ensuing naval battle of Leyte Gulf was one of the largest ever fought. In February 1945, US troops reached Manila, which was devastated in fighting that continued until July. World War II ended with the Japanese surrender to the Allies on 2 September. Manila was the second most destroyed city of World War II, after Warsaw, Poland. With the destruction of Manila's urban infrastructure; universities, hospitals, newspaper printing plants, government offices, factories and port facilities, the Philippines was left without its modern sector.

Republic of the Philippines

In 1944 Osmena succeeded Quezon, who died in the United States, as president-in-exile. Osmena returned to Manila in 1945, and plans went forward to inaugurate the independent Republic of the Philippines. Manuel Roxas challenged the elderly Osmena for the

presidency and split the Nationalist Party to form the Liberal Party. Roxas won the election of April 1946 and became the first president of the new republic, with Elpidio as vice president. The Republic of the Philippines was formally proclaimed on July 4, 1946.

The post war administration faced staggering problems. The country's infrastructure and economy were in ruins. To help in the republic's rehabilitation, the United States established preferential trade relations and awarded the new nation several hundred million dollars in war damage and rehabilitation aid. As a condition of receiving the aid, the Philippines was forced to agree to give US investors parity, or equal economic rights with Filipinos. In 1947 the US government secured an agreement allowing to retain jurisdiction over numerous military installations, including Clark Air Base, for a period of 99 years. In 1959 the Philippines amended the agreement, giving the United States a new 25 year lease for fewer bases.

The Hukbalahap Insurgency

In addition to economic problems, the Philippines faced growing tensions between landowners and the rural poor. During the war the Hukabalahap had become a powerful guerrilla force with strong rural-based support. The organization was associated with the Communist party of the Philippines (CCP) but was mostly composed of a radicalized peasantry who held many grievances against agrarian landlords. The authority of Philippine landlords had been disrupted during the wartime occupation, and after the war they tried to re-impose their authority. The leadership of the Hukbalahap, which was renamed the People's Liberation Army in 1946, demanded the collective ownership of farmland and abolition of tenant farming. Widespread fighting broke out as the Philippine police and landlord militias battled the Huk guerrillas and their supporters. In February 1948 Roxas, who had played a role in the Japanese-sponsored wartime government, resolved a raging controversy over collaboration by pardoning all those who had served the Japanese. The following

month, Roxas declared the Hukbalahap to be an illegal organization and stepped up counterinsurgency measures.

Nacionalista Party

The Nacionalista Party is the oldest political party in the Philippines today and was responsible for leading the country throughout the majority of the 20th century since its founding in 1907. The party began as the country's vehicle for independence, through the building of a modern nation-state, and through the advocacy of efficient self rule, dominating the Philippine Assembly (1907-1916), the Philippine Legislature (1916-1935) and the pre-war years of the commonwealth of the Philippines (1935-1941). During the Japanese Occupation, political parties were replaced by the KALIBAPI. By the second half of the century the party was one of the main political contenders for leadership in the country, in competition with the Liberals and Progressives, during the decades between the devastation of World War II and the violent suppression of partisan politics of the Marcos dictatorship. In 1978, in a throwback to the Japanese Occupation, political parties were asked to merge into the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, although the Nacionalistas preferred to go into hibernation. Eventually, the party was revived during the late 1980's and early 1990's by the Laurel family, which has dominated the Party since the 1950's. It is now being reborn by the likes of Sen. Ralf Recto, and party president Sen. Manuel Villar. Two of the other present parties, the Liberal and the Nacionalista People's Coalition are breakaways from the Nacionalista Party.

The Nacionalista Party is also known as the NP. There are no results available of the last elections for the House of Representatives, but according to the website of the House, the party holds five out of 235 seats (state of the parties, June 2005). The party was, at the 2004 elections a member of the Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan sa Kinabukasan (*K-4 coalition of Truth and experience for Tomorrow*), *the coalition that supported president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*,

who won the 2004 presidential elections.

Throughout their careers, many of the country's greatest politicians, statesmen, and leaders were, in whole or in part, Nacionalists. Notable names include Manuel Briones, Carlos P. Garcia Jose P. Laurel, and Manuel Roxas, and finally a few of the founding fathers of Philippine Independence Manuel L. Quezon, Jose Palma, and Sergio Osmena. Before his declaration of martial law, Ferdinand E. Marcos ran for the presidency as a Nacionalista.

Most of these individuals embody solid political traditions of economic and political nationalism are pertinent today, even with the party's subsequent decline.

The Nationalist Party in the Philippines corresponds somewhat to the Republican Party in the United States. It belongs to the conservative wing of Philippine politics, while its main opponent, the Liberal Party and the political parties belonging to the aggruption of the People's power government all belong to the liberal wing of Philippine politics somewhat corresponding to the Democratic Party in the United States.

CHAPTER 2

Filipino Patriots

Jose Rizal

Jose Rizal is the greatest of all Philippine patriots. He gave his life, at the age of thirty-five, fighting Spanish occupation that ruled the Philippine Islands from 1542 until 1989. Jose Rizal was the most intelligent and compassionate patriot and it is doubtful that any Filipino can equal his accomplishments. He was exceedingly brilliant and believed in achieving freedom in a peaceful manner. His execution in 1896 made him a martyr in the hearts and minds of Filipinos, a beacon of inspiration that will give hope and faith for eternity.

Jose Rizal did not die in vain, he will always be remembered. The Philippine government and citizens of the Philippines honored him by declaring an annual "Jose Rizal Day," erecting a statue where he was executed, naming a park in his name in Manila, and naming a university and college in his honor.

He was born in 1861, he was variously called the "Pride of the Malay Race," "The Great Malayan," "The First Filipino," "The Messiah of the Revolution," "The Universal Hero." "The Messiah of the Redemption," and the "National Hero of the Philippines."

Rizal mastered 22 languages which included Catalan, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, Malay, Spanish, Tagalog, Cebuano, and other Philippine languages.

He was also an architect, artist, educator, economist, ethnologist, scientific farmer, historian, inventor, journalist, musician, mythologist, internationalist, naturalist, novelist, ophthalmologist, physician, poet, propagandist, sculptor, and sociologist. A person of great diversified learning. Rizal first studied under Justiniano Aquino Cruz in Binan, Laguna. He went to Manila to study at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 1877 and graduated at the top of his class. He continued his education in the Atenco Municipal to obtain a degree in land surveying and assessor, and at the same time in the University of Santo Tomas where he studied Philosophy and Letters. Upon learning that his mother was going blind, he decided to study medicine (ophthalmology) in the University of Santo Tomas, but did not complete it because he felt that Filipinos were being discriminated by the Dominicans who operated the University.

Without his family's knowledge and consent, but wholly and secretly supported by his brother Paciano, he traveled alone to Madrid Spain and studied medicine at the Universidad Central de Madrid where he earned the degree, *Licentiate in Medicine*. His education continued at the University of Paris and the University of Heidelberg where he earned a second doctorate.

Jose Rizal's most famous works were his two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, social commentaries on the Philippines under Spanish colonial rule. These books, inspired by the ideals in *Cervantes*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Don Quixote*, and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, angered both the Spaniards and the Filipinos, due to the blatant and insulting symbolism in the books. This eventually led to his execution, and the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

After writing *Noli me Tangere*, he gained notoriety with the Spaniards. Against the advice of his family and friends, he came back

to the Philippines to aid his family, which was having trouble with the Dominican landlords. He petitioned the townspeople of Calamba to speak out against the friars. In retaliation, the Dominicans persecuted the Calamba farmers even more, going so far as to evict them from their homes for refusing to pay the exorbitant land rental fees. Rizal later left the country again. Rizal was a reformer for an open society rather than a revolutionary for political independence, a peacemaker, Asia's first. As a leader of the Propaganda Movement of Filipino students in Spain, he controlled newspaper articles to *La Solidaridad* in Barcelona with the following agenda.

- That the Philippines be a province of Spain
- Representation in the Cortes (Parliament)
- Filipino priests rather than the Spanish Augustinians, Dominicans, or Franciscans
- Freedom of assembly and speech
- Equal rights before the law (for both Filipino and Spanish plaintiffs)

The authorities in the Philippines did not accept these reforms. Upon his return to Manila in 1892, he formed a civic movement called *La Liga Filipina*. This league advocated these moderate social reforms through legal means, but was disbanded by the governor. At that time, he had already been declared an enemy of the state by the Spanish authorities because of his incendiary novels. *Noli me Tangere*, in particular, had painted the friars in a very bad light, with no hope of redemption.

In 1896, the Katipunan, a Nationalist secret society, launched a revolution. Rizal was arrested en route, imprisoned in Barcelona,

and made to stand trial. Although Rizal's political proposals for more autonomy were non-violent, he was so symbolic a figure that the Spanish authorities had to arrest him. He was implicated in the revolution through association with members of the Katipunan and tried before a court-martial for rebellion, sedition, and conspiracy. During his internment, he had many opportunities to escape but refused to do so. Rizal was convicted of all three charges and sentenced to death.

With his execution nearing, Rizal wrote his last poem titled "*My Last Farewell*," expressing his love for his native land. On the date of his execution on December 30, 1896, he gave a gas burner containing the hidden poem to his sister, Trinidad. She smuggled the poem to Cavite, where it was translated into Tagalog and disseminated to advance Katipunan efforts against Spanish rule.

MY LAST FAREWELL

By Jose Rizal

Farewell, dear Motherland, clime of the sun caressed,
 Pearl of the Orient seas, our Eden lost!
Gladly now I go to give thee this faded life's best,
 And where it brighter, fresher, or more blest,
 Still would I give it thee, nor count the cost.
On the field of battle, 'mid the frenzy of light,
Others have given their lives, without doubt or heed;
The place matters not - cypress or laurel or lily white,
Scaffold or open plain, combat or martyrdom's plight,
'Tis ever the same, to serve our home and country's need.
 I die when I see the dawn break,
 Through the gloom of night, to herald the day;
And if color is lacking my blood thou shall take,
 Pour'd out at need for thy dear sake,
 To dye with its crimson the waking ray.
My dreams, when life first opened to me,

My dreams, when the hopes of youth beat high,
Were to see thy lov'd face, O gem of the Orient sea.
From gloom and grief, from care and sorrow free;
 No blush on thy brow, no tear in thine eye.
Dream of my life, my living and burning desire,
All hail! Cries the soul that is now to take flight;
 All hail! And sweet it is for thee to expire,
 To die for thy sake, that thou mayst aspire,
 And sleep in thy bosom eternity's long night.
If over my grave some day though seest grow,
 In the grassy sod, a humble flower,
 Draw it to thy lips and kiss my soul so,
While I may feel on my brow in the cold tomb below,
The touch of my tenderness, thy breath's warm power.
 Let the moon beam over me soft and serene,
 Let the dawn shed over me its radiant flashes,
 Let the wind with the sad lament over me keen;
 And if on my cross a bird should be seen,
 Let it trill there its hymn of peace to my ashes,
 Let the sun draw the vapors up to the sky,
And heavenward in purity bear my tardy protest;
 Let some kind soul o'er my untimely fate sigh,
And in the still evening a prayer be lifted on high
From, thee, O my country, that in God I may rest.
 Pray for all that hapless have died,
 For all who have suffered the unmeasured pain;
For our mothers that bitterly their woes have cried,
For widows and orphans, for captives by torture tried;
And then for thyself that redemption thou mayst gain.
And when the dark night wraps the graveyard around,
 With only the dead in their vigil to see;
 Break not my repose or the mystery profound,
And perchance thou mayst hear a sad hymn resound;

This I, O country raising a song unto thee.
 When even my grave is remembered no more,
 Unmark'd by never a cross or stone;
 Let the plow sweep through it, the spade turn it o'er
 That my ashes may carpet the earthly floor,
 Before into nothingness at last they are blown.
 Then will oblivion bring to me no care;
 As over they vales and plains I sweep;
 Throbbing and cleansed in they space and air,
 With color and light, with song and lament I fare,
 Ever repeating the faith I keep.
 My Fatherland ador'd that sadness to my sorrow lends,
 Beloved Filipinas, hear now my last good-bye!
 I give thee all; parents kindred and friends;
 For I go where no slave before the oppressor bends,
 Where faith can never kill and God reigns e'er on high!
 Farewell to you all, from my soul torn away,
 Friends of my childhood in home dispossessed!
 Give thanks that I rest from the wearisome day!
 Farewell to thee, too, sweet friend that lighted my way;
 Beloved creatures all, farewell! In death there is rest!

Manuel Roxas

Manuel Acuna Roxas was the first president of the independent Republic of the Philippines. He served as president from the granting of independence in 1946 until his abrupt death in 1948.

Roxas was born on January 1, 1892, in a city that was named, postmortem, after him, Roxas City, Capiz to Rosario Acuna. His father, Geraldo Roxas Sr. died before he was born.

Roxas studied college courses at the University of Manila, and law at the University of the Philippines, and was the bar topnotcher. He was a career politician who started as a provincial fiscal. In 1921, he was elected to the Philippine House of Representatives and in the following year he became speaker.

After the Commonwealth of the Philippines was established (1935), Roxas became a member of the unicameral National Assembly, and served (1938-1941) as the Secretary of Finance in President Manuel L. Quezon's cabinet. After the amendments to the 1935 Philippine Constitution were approved in 1941, he was elected (1941) to the Philippine senate, but was unable to serve until 1945 because of the outbreak of World War II.

Having enrolled prior to World War II as an officer in the reserves, he was made liaison officer between the Commonwealth government and the United States Armed Forces in the Far East headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur. He accompanied President Quezon to Corregidor where he supervised the destruction of Philippine currency to prevent its capture by the Japanese. When Quezon left Corregidor, Roxas went to Mindanao to direct the resistance there. It was prior to Quezon's departure that he made Executive Secretary and designated as successor to the presidency in case Quezon and Vice President Sergio Osmena were captured or killed. Roxas was captured (1942) by the Japanese invasion forces. After a period of imprisonment, he was brought to Manila and eventually signed the Constitution promulgated by the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic. He was made responsible for economic policy under the government of Jose P. Laurel. During this time he also served as an intelligence agent for the underground Philippine guerrilla forces. In 1944, he unsuccessfully tried to escape to Allied territory. The returning American forces arrested him as a Japanese collaborator. After the war, General Douglas MacArthur cleared him and reinstated his commission as an officer of the US Armed Forces. This resuscitated his political career.

When the Congress of the Philippines was convened in 1945, the legislators elected in 1941, chose Roxas as Senate President. In the Philippine national elections of 1946, Roxas ran for president as the nominee of the liberal wing of the Nationalista Party. He had the staunch support of General MacArthur. His opponent was Sergio

Osmena, who refused to campaign, saying that the Filipino people knew his reputation. However in the April 23, 1946, election, Roxas won 54 percent of the vote, and the Liberal Party won a majority in the legislature. When Philippine independence was recognized by the United States on July 4, 1946, he became the first president of the new republic.

In 1948, Roxas declared amnesty for those arrested for collaborating with the Japanese during World War II, except for those who had committed violent crimes.

Manuel Roxas was married to Dona Trinidad de Leon and had two children, Ruby and Gerardo "Gerry" Roxas Jr., who became congressman and a leader of the Liberal Party. He died on April 15, 1948, at the age of 56 after suffering a fatal heart attack after delivering a speech at Clark Air Base. He was succeeded by his vice president Elpidio Quirino.

Sergio Osmena

Sergio Osmena was the second President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. He was vice president under Manuel L. Quezon, and rose to the presidency upon Quezon's death in 1944. He was a founder of the Nacionalista Party.

Osmena is a member of the prominent Osmena family, which includes his son (former Senator Sergio Osmena Jr.) and his grandsons (Senators Sergio Somena III and John Osmena).

A Chinese-mestizo, Osmena was born in Cebu to Jauna Osmena y Suico. He took his elementary education in the University of San Carlos and graduated in 1892. Osmena continued his education in Manila, studying in San Juan de Letran College where he first met Manuel Quezon, a classmate of his. He took law at the University of Santo Tomas and was second place in the bar examination in 1903.

Osmena served on the war staff of General Emilio Aguinaldo as courier and journalist. In 1900 he founded the Cebu newspaper, *El Nuevo Dia* which lasted for three years.

Osmena was a lawyer and newspaper editor before involving himself in local politics, starting out as a councilor.

In 1904, the American colonial administration appointed him governor of Cebu. Two years later he was elected governor of Cebu. While governor, he ran for election to the first Philippine Assembly of 1907 and was elected Speaker of that body. Osmena was only 29 and already the highest-ranking Filipino official.

He and another politician, Manuel Quezon of Tayabas, set up the Nacionalista Party as a foil to the *Partido Federalista* of Manila-based politicians. The two would engage in a rivalry for political dominance ever since.

Osmena was elected as assemblyman in 1907 and remained a member of the lower house until 1922. He was the country's vice president for two consecutive terms under the Philippine Commonwealth.

He went to the United States in 1933 to secure passage of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Independence Bill, which was superseded by the Tydings-McDuffie Act in March 1934.

Osmena was elected as vice president of the Commonwealth in 1935, with Quezon as president. He was re-elected in 1941. When the Commonwealth government relocated in the United States in exile, Osmena went with Quezon.

Osmena became president of the Commonwealth on Quezon's death in 1944. He returned to the Philippines the same year with General Douglas MacArthur and the liberation forces. After the war, Osmena restored the Commonwealth government and the various executive departments. He continued the fight for Philippine independence.

For the presidential election in 1946, Osmena refused to campaign, saying that the Filipino people knew of his record for 40 years of honest and faithful service. Nevertheless, he was defeated by Manuel Roxas, who won 54 percent of the vote.

After his defeat in the election, Osmena retired to his home

in Cebu. He died on October 19, 1961, at the Veteran's Memorial Hospital, and buried in the North Cemetery in Manila.

Lapu-Lapu

Lapu-Lapu (Caliph Pulaka) born 1491, died 1542, is the earliest known Muslim chieftain of Mactan in the Philippines. Known as the first native of the archipelago to have resisted Spanish colonization, he is now regarded as the first National hero of the Philippines.

On the morning of April 27, 1521, Lapu-Lapu and the men of Mactan, armed with spears and Kampilan, faced 49 Spanish soldiers led by Portuguese captain Ferdinand Magellan. In what would later be known as the battle of Mactan, Magellan and several of his men were killed.

In his honor, the Cebuano people have erected a statue and church in Mactan Island and also renamed the town of Opon in Cebu to Lapu-Lapu.

Emilio Aguinaldo

After the Spanish American War, Filipinos fighting for their independence from Spain had declared their independence on June 12, 1896 and on January 1, 1899, Emilio Aguinaldo was declared the first president. He later organized a Congress at Malolos, Bulacan to draft a constitution. The United States did not recognize Emilio Aguinaldo as president or the declared independence from Spain.

In December 1898, the US purchased the Philippines and other territories from Spain at the Treaty of Paris for the sum of 20 million United States dollars, after the US defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War. The US government made plans to make the Philippines an American Colony.

Tensions between the Filipinos and American soldiers on the islands existed because of the conflicting movements for independence and colonization, aggravated by their feelings of betrayal on the part of the Filipinos by their former allies, the Americans. Hostilities

between the United States and the Philippine guerrillas started on February 4, 1899.

A large American Military force of 126,000 soldiers was needed to occupy the Philippines. By the end of February 1899, the Americans had prevailed in the struggle for Manila, and the Philippine Army of Liberation was forced to retreat north. The Filipinos' ability to fight a conventional war was rapidly diminishing, and in 1900, Aguinaldo ordered his army to engage in guerrilla warfare, a means of operation which better suited them and made American occupation of the archipelago the more difficult over the next few years.

The Americans had grown tired of the frustrating guerrilla war and were looking for a quick solution to bring an end to the conflict. The key to victory in military minds, was to capture Aguinaldo, bring down the only real leadership the Filipinos had. But Aguinaldo had been more evasive than the Americans anticipated, due to intelligence from civilians and guerrillas, he was always able to make his escape.

General Frederick Funston was able to use Aguinaldo's trust of his own people against him, when Funston on March 23, 1901, in northern Luzon, faked capture with the help of some Filipinos who had joined the American's side. Once Funston and his "captors" entered Aguinaldo's camp, they immediately attacked the guards and quickly overwhelmed them and the weary Aguinaldo.

The capture of Aguinaldo dealt a severe blow to the Filipino cause, but not much as the Americans had hoped. Less competent leaders of the guerrilla movement kept fighting and command changed hands frequently, as each general, one after another, was killed, captured, or surrendered. Although unorganized bands of guerrillas roamed the countryside for nearly a decade, with an occasional clash with American Army or Philippine Constabulary patrols, the Filipinos, for the most part, accepted the Americans had won, and would live on to become their future allies and finally gain their independence.

The subsequent American repression towards the population

decreased tremendously the materials, men, and moral of many Filipino resistance fighters, compelling them in one way or another to surrender.

While some measures to allow partial self-government were implemented earlier, the guerrilla war did not subside until 1913 when US President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a change in policy that would, after a transitional period, grant the Philippines full independence. It was a long hard struggle by many brave Filipinos, freedom and a democratic society was on the horizon.

Manuel Luis Quezon

Manuel Luis Quezon was born August 19, 1878 and was the first president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. He is considered the second president of the Philippines, after Emilio Aguinaldo (whose administration did not receive international recognition at the time and is not considered the first president by the United States).

Quezon served as aid-de-camp to Emilio Aguinaldo (he had been a Lieutenant in the Bataan sector during the retreat in 1901), he fought with Filipino nationalists in the Filipino-American War.

In 1935, Manuel Quezon won the Philippine's first national presidential election against Emilio Aguinaldo and Bishop Gregorio Aglipay. His original six year term without reelection was extended by constitutional amendment, allowing him to serve two additional years for a total of eight. He was reelected in November 1941.

After the Japanese invasion of the Philippines during World War II, he fled to the United States. There, he served as a member of the Pacific War Council, signed the declaration of the United Nations against Axis Powers, and wrote his autobiography (The Good Fight).

Quezon suffered from tuberculosis and died at Saranac Lake, New York on August 1, 1944. He was initially buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His body was later carried by the USS Princeton (CV-37), and re-interred in Manila, at the Manila North Cemetery, and then moved to Quezon City within the monument at the Quezon

Memorial Circle.

Freedom Fighters and Patriots

The beloved people of the Philippines are free today because of the supreme sacrifice by thousands of great patriots.

An American Hero and His Contribution To Democracy

General Douglas MacArthur

Freedom and democracy in the Philippines was a hard and long struggle, it took 404 years to achieve that goal by many great Filipinos who persevered by blood, sweat, and tears. Many suffered severely, and some sacrificed their lives so that future generations could live free in a democratic society.

The Philippine Islands were ruled by Spain from 1542 until 1898. As a result of the Spanish American War, the Philippines became a protectorate of the United States from 1898 until 1946.

General MacArthur's Army career included four assignments to the Philippines. After his third assignment, he retired and lived in the Philippines until he was recalled to active duty by President Roosevelt in 1941, for his fourth duty assignment in the Philippines. He led the United States Army in retaking the Philippines after Japanese occupation.

General MacArthur loved the Philippines and its beloved people. He did more than any foreigner to achieve democracy in the Philippines and was rewarded with honor, respect, and gratitude. Sixty-one years after World War II ended (2006) in the Philippines, statues of General MacArthur are still standing throughout the country, and most notably, on the tourist paths at Corregidor where he departed the Philippines for Australia on 11 March 1942, after the President ordered him to leave after overwhelming Japanese forces invaded the Philippines, and statues at Leyte, the landing site of General MacArthur and his forces when he returned to liberate the Philippines in October 1944.

Three days after Leyte was recaptured, General MacArthur informed President Osmena before a gathering of Filipino citizens and proclaimed, "On behalf of my government, I restore to you a constitutional administration by countrymen of your confidence and choice. As our forces advance, I shall in like manner restore the other Philippine cities and provinces throughout the entire land." President Osmena was completely surprised by General MacArthur's speech and responded *"America and General Mac Arthur are one. He is a singular representative of the highest and best in the American ideal of freedom and democracy. He embodies the noblest in the American character and integrity of soul. In the building of the greater democratic Philippines, he will surely serve as the inspiration of our people. His name will be ever remembered by the Filipinos."*

The Fall of Manila

President Osmena began his administration with this speech: "This is an historic event in an historic city. From the time of our Malay ancestors founded it more than eight centuries ago, colonial powers have fought for its conquest and domination. The Spaniards, the Dutch, the English, a Chinese pirate, our revolutionary fathers, have all vied with each other for its possession. But today's event is different from any of the previous conquests and victories. The present victory of American arms is not a victory for power, control or domination, but a victory for freedom, democracy and independence.

To General MacArthur, this campaign has been a crusade. Friend and defender of our race, he never lost faith in his spiritual strength of our people. In this crusade, he is finishing the noble work begun by his illustrious father, General Arthur MacArthur, who on August 13, 1898, successfully led another American Army to free Manila from a European power. General Douglas MacArthur will go down in history not only for his signal military successes but also for consistently following truly democratic methods with dealing with

Philippine affairs in areas retaken from the enemy. Instead of taking advantage of military operations to maintain military government over territories recaptured, he has been faithful in his role as liberator in the truest American tradition."

Tribute by Manuel Roxas

After Japan surrendered, Manuel Roxas, who was shortly to become the first president of the Philippine Republic, paid General MacArthur this tribute: *"To those who know him well, what is even more remarkable than his extraordinary physical courage is his moral courage. Every problem that faces him, he decides not on the basis of whether it will be popular or not, not because of its possible effect on his own future, not in response to influential pressures, but solely and simply on what he judges to be right or what he judges to be wrong. Meticulous in carrying out the directives he receives, he is fearless in his outspoken frankness of view in the discussion period preceding a final decision. Emotionally sensitive to the rights of the lowly and absolutely devoted to the welfare of his nation, he is the very embodiment of the West Point tradition of Duty, Honor, Country."*

Before the House of Representatives in Washington Philippine Delegate Carlos Romulo eloquently spoke about General Douglas MacArthur: "He is a soldier, he is one who apparently destroyed. He has not destroyed; he has built. Through his understanding of simple people, he has salvaged understanding between two worlds. You of America, is it not a matter of national pride to learn that a section of the world where white men have lost dignity and were being trampled under the advancing juggernaut of Japanese destruction, that one American remained in the hearts of eighteen million Filipinos as an emblem of all they most admired. The gulf between Orient and Occident was cleverly widened by the Japanese propaganda, but Douglas MacArthur as an individual bridged that gulf, with no sudden protestation of friendship, but with a kindly

faith expressed from the beginning in a nation and its people. His sympathetic understanding of the aspirations of the people - it is that, that has made him a great statesman as well as a great soldier. Men like him will eventually put an end to war. To America he is the hero strategist who held the Stars and Strips in its prideful place in the Far East. To us in the Philippines, he is you. He is America."

Congress of the Philippines

The first two joint resolutions passed by the newly established postwar Congress of the Philippines were:

One: Conferred upon General MacArthur *honorary citizenship in the Philippines*.

Two: That in reverent appreciation of General Douglas MacArthur, his name be carried in perpetuity on the company rolls of the Philippine Army, and at parade roll calls, when his name is called, the senior non-commissioned officer shall answer "present in spirit," and during the lifetime of the General he shall be accredited with a guard of honor composed of 12 men of the Philippine Army. That coins and postage stamps, to be determined by the President, having the likeness of General Douglas MacArthur, shall bear the inscription - "Defender - Liberator."

The Greatest General

General MacArthur is renowned as the greatest General in the world. He had a brilliant mind and was blessed with the opportunity to attain an academic education that surpassed his contemporaries. He graduated in first place from the US Military Academy at West Point in his class of 93 cadets with the highest grade average in the 117 year history of the Academy. General MacArthur's experience as a soldier in terms of exposure to tactics and strategy, military assignments, battlefield conditions, association with United States and foreign presidents, kings, and high level civilians associated with security and defense, will never be equaled. Unfortunately, no General in the

world had the opportunity that General MacArthur had, nor will a General ever have the opportunity to be associated with situations that would provide similar experiences that helped shape and mold General MacArthur's greatness.

- The following events were some of the building blocks that stimulated the whole man concept in General MacArthur and brought to fruition, the greatest General of all time. There were thousands of other events that influenced his character and greatness, which are too numerous to mention.
- Douglas MacArthur's father, General Arthur MacArthur Jr., was in charge of an infantry company, responsible for protecting railroad workers and settlers in New Mexico when Douglas was young. It was there that Douglas learned to ride and shoot.
- Army posting took the MacArthur family from New Mexico to Kansas, Washington, DC, and San Antonio, Texas. At the age of thirteen Douglas enrolled at the West Texas Military Academy, where he excelled in academics, military discipline, social graces, and religion. Douglas's father was both surprised and elated at Douglas's superior performance and knew his son was destined to be a great soldier.
- In 1891, Douglas received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point after achieving top scores on the qualifying exam. Upon Graduation four years later, Douglas MacArthur had the distinction of achieving the highest grade score average for the entire 117 year history of the

Academy.

- During his career, he was posted to the Philippines four times and became close friends with Manuel Quezon, who was President of the Philippines from 1935 until 1944 and President Sergio Osmena who succeeded him.
- In October 1904, was ordered to join his father, General Arthur MacArthur, in Japan for the purpose of observing Russo-Japanese war in order to measure the strength of the Japanese army and its methods of warfare. In addition, spent nine months evaluating the colonial lands of the Orient, Southeast Asia, and India. This is probably the first time in history that a General had the good fortune to personally observe a country's methods and capability to fight a war, years later retire, and be recalled to active duty by the President of the United States to lead the army in war against that country. There was no General in the Army that President Delano Roosevelt felt comfortable with as to their capability to perform as Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in the Philippines than General Douglas MacArthur.
- Served as Aid-de-camp to Theodore Roosevelt. Teddy, as he was affectionately called, admired General MacArthur and spent many hours with him talking about philosophy, Army tactics, and strategy.
- Assigned to the Army's General Staff in Washington and later assigned as Military Assistant to the Secretary of War and placed in charge of the Bureau

of information for the War Department.

- When Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, MacArthur was promoted to Colonel and assigned to Brigadier General Man as Divisional Commander for the Rainbow Division, which was recently activated and consisted of National Guard units from several states. Colonel Douglas MacArthur was the youngest Division Commander of the War.
- During the eighteen month duration of the war in France, Colonel MacArthur was promoted to Brigadier General and became the youngest Battle Field Commander of the war. During the war he was awarded Seven Silver Stars, two Distinguished Service Crosses, was wounded twice, and gassed twice, and cited nine times for valor. He was cited by France General Menoher and United States General Summerall as the greatest front-line General of the war and a brilliant tactician on the battlefield. He also gained a reputation by facing danger without fear.
- France awarded him a Commander in the Legion of Honor with a second Croix de Guerre.
- France also made him an Honor Corporal of the 8th Regiment of the line with Legion of Honor Fourrageere and Honorary First Class private of the Bataillon de Chasseurs Alpines with Medal Militaire Fourragere.
- Douglas MacArthur's father, General Arthur MacArthur Jr., was in charge of an infantry company, responsible for protecting railroad workers and

settlers in New Mexico when Douglas was young. It was here that Douglas learned to ride and shoot before he reached the age of six. The soldiers were eager to teach him the rudiments of army life, including tracking Indians, which proved to be a godsend on his first assignment to the Philippines after graduating from West Point as a Second Lieutenant.

- General MacArthur is the most highly decorated soldier in the history of the United States.
- Acclaimed by the Secretary of War and President Woodrow Wilson as the greatest Front Line General in World War I.
- After World War I, he returned to the states and was assigned to West Point as Superintendent, another position whereby he was the youngest in the history of the Academy to hold that position. All Colonels and Brigadier Generals that were promoted during World War I were reverted back to their old rank at the end of the war, except General MacArthur.
- In 1930, he was promoted to full General, and appointed as Chief of Staff. Tradition dictated that the position be held only one term, however, President Roosevelt appointed him to a second term. After General MacArthur toured Europe and other nations armed services, he saw the build-up for war in Germany and urged the United States Congress to build-up for war to meet the threat. President Roosevelt saw the danger to the United States after reading General MacArthur's report and supported

the build-up. Congress was not as enthusiastic as the president and the build-up was slow. The history of WW II would have been different if Congress had taken the advice of General MacArthur, and built-up the United States armed forces comparable to Japan and Germany, prior to 1941.

- President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines made him a Field Marshal in 1937. General MacArthur was the only person in the Philippines ever to hold that position, which he held until his death in 1964.
- Upon his first visit to Canberra, Australia in 1942, General MacArthur was bestowed a great honor by giving him a seat on the Floor of the House of Representatives when Parliament was in session. This was an extremely rare occasion, however, it demonstrated great admiration and gratitude by the Australian government.

There were many duty assignments not mentioned whereby he excelled and was duly noted by his superiors. President Delano Roosevelt admired General MacArthur as a friend and for his brilliance, the president had more confidence in him than anyone in the armed services. General MacArthur had a few critics and detractors that were either jealous or ignorant, who attributed statements that were not true. However, the jealous and ignorant can be found in all walks of life, attacking anyone without justification, just for the sake of self gratification.

Two examples of unjustified criticism: After the Philippines was liberated, Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, by virtue of the office he held, and the absence of a high commissioner, argued with General MacArthur that he should take over the administration of the

Philippines. Ickes claimed that the Philippines was a possession of the United States and was opposed to giving the reigns of government into the hands of President Osmena and the regularly elected officials. He informed General MacArthur that he had been advised as to who had been loyal and who had been disloyal to the United States during the period of Japanese occupation, and that he was going to try the disloyal people for treason.

General MacArthur adamantly disagreed with Ickes, it was quite evident that Ickes intended to shoot or hang all Filipinos who had anything to do with the Puppet government that was established by the Japanese. All of the members of the Puppet government were well known to General MacArthur and he considered their devotion to their country was unquestionable. His position was that no *prima facie* case of treason existed against a man simply because he accepted duties under the Japanese established government. Many men were led to do so by desire to improve the hardships and rigor imposed upon the people.

General MacArthur refused to establish military control of the Philippines. After liberating a city, he turned over control to the Philippine Commonwealth government, and his position was completely supported by Secretary of War Stimson. Ickes did not like their decision, and complained to President Roosevelt. President Roosevelt settled the matter by deciding against Ickes.

In the weeks immediately after the liberation of the Philippines, General Manuel Roxas (Later became first president of the independent Republic of the Philippines) was the target of Ickes and his supporters, and because General MacArthur refused to brand him a traitor, he also became an object of the venom of Secretary Ickes. Secretary Ickes attempt to degrade General MacArthur and General Roxas cast a long shadow on his own character, and did harm to his reputation. Ickes had an ulterior motive, if he had succeeded it would have been devastating to the Filipino people, and the United States would have paid a high dollar price and possibly loss of lives. Ickes only objective

was to gain administrative control of the Philippine Commonwealth government and bring to trial, all members of the Philippine Puppet government, which was established by the Japanese.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was a critic of General MacArthur in a childish and immature way. He kept a diary and one entry in particular, he made disparaging remarks about General MacArthur's repeated request to the War Department for more planes, tanks, manpower, ammunition, and supplies to fight the war in the Philippines. General MacArthur desperately needed everything he requested, if he had been supported with the things he requested, the Japanese would not have occupied the Philippines. General Eisenhower failed to realize that the United States did not have the capacity to fight a war in both Europe and the Pacific at the same time. President Roosevelt had made the decision, in coordination with Prime Minister Winston Churchill to fully support the war against Germany, win the war, then concentrate on winning the war in the Pacific. Congress failed to build-up the armed forces as suggested by General MacArthur when he was Chief of Staff, and reviewed other nations military capabilities. As a result of non-support of war materials and the Japanese naval blockade of the Philippines, the United States army suffered the most humiliating defeat and surrender in American history, and unnecessary loss of life, both American and Filipino. Eisenhower's remarks were completely unprofessional and without merit. In comparison to General MacArthur, General Eisenhower was criticized by United States and allied soldiers, possibly a thousand times more for his performance, decisions and failures during World War II in Europe.

CHAPTER 3

World War II

The sudden and deliberate attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941, was the catalyst that propelled the United States into World War Two. A war that Congress and the President did not prepare for despite the fact that war clouds were on the horizon for many years.

In 1935 General MacArthur was assigned to the Philippines and at the end of his tour of duty, he retired as a four star General and remained in the Philippines after serving three tours of duty in the Philippines. On 29 May 1941, MacArthur received a letter from the Army's Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, which stated that he and Secretary of War, Henry L. Stinson, were greatly concerned about the situation in the Far East. He said that during previous discussions, it was decided that your outstanding qualifications and vast experience in the Philippine Islands, made you a logical choice for the position of Army Commander in the Far East should the situation approach a crisis. The secretary has delayed recommending your appointment, as he does not feel the time has arrived for such action. However, he has authorized me to tell you that, at the proper time, he will recommend to the President, that you be appointed. What General Marshall's letter did not say was that President Roosevelt

and Secretary Stinson had been discussing creating and filling the position of Army Commander in the Far East. President Roosevelt was emphatic about recalling General MacArthur to active duty to fill the position; there was no other choice as far as the president was concerned.

The Philippine Commonwealth Army was created by the Philippine Commonwealth Act, approved 21 December 1935. With the threat of war with Japan imminent, on 26 July 1941, a new command in the Far East was created, known as the United States Armed Forces Far East (USAFF). On the same date, President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Presidential Order (6 Fed. Reg. 3825) which called the Philippine Commonwealth Army into service of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Presidential Order of 26 July 1941, did not order all the military forces of the Philippine government into service of the United States Armed Forces. Only those units and personnel indicated in orders issued by a general officer of the United States Army were mobilized and made an integral part of the United States Armed Forces Far East. Only those members of a unit who physically reported for duty were inducted.

In mid-July 1941, negotiations between Washington and Japan broke down, however, communications between the two nations continued. It was at this time that Washington realized that war was inevitable and on 27 July, General MacArthur received a cable from General Marshall informing him that he had been recalled to active duty, his assignment was in Manila, Philippines and his duty title was, U.S. Army Commanding General in the Far East.

In August 1941, President Roosevelt authorized Filipinos to join the U.S. Army. August 15 through September 1, General MacArthur inducted 12 infantry regiments into the service of the U.S. Army and recruited thousands of Filipinos. Training the recruits and infantry regiments received the highest priority. In addition to lack of training, the Army was ill equipped to fight a war due to lack of equipment, in

addition to the outdated equipment they were using.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was on the morning of 7 December 1941 and the attack on the Philippines occurred the same day, (considering the time zones, the attack in the Philippines occurred on December 8). General MacArthur received a telephone call from Washington informing him of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Because of the chaos created by the attack, and the urgency of notifying Washington of the attack, the extent of the damage had not been fully assessed by Naval officials when they submitted their preliminary report of attack to Washington, therefore, no specific information was passed on to General MacArthur except for the attack by Japan. Six hours and ten minutes after General MacArthur received the telephone call from Washington, the Japanese bombed Clark Air Field and Fort Stotsenberg, Philippines.

President Roosevelt's Speech to Congress

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe

damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night the Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night the Japanese forces attacked the Philippines. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The People of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

Japanese Air Attack on the Philippine Islands

The Philippines has been called the "Pearl of the Orient Sea" ever since national martyr-hero Jose Rizal, so described it in his poem *Mi ultimo adios* (My Final Farewell). The poem was written on the eve of Rizal's execution by Spanish Colonial authorities in Manila, and it has remained one of the world's finest expressions of the struggle for freedom.

Pearl Harbor was bombed on the morning of 7 December 1941, local time, and Japanese bombs fell on Philippine soil 10 hours later at Clark Field around noon on 8 December, local time. The attack was a complete surprise to General MacArthur even though he was advised of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

A few months earlier over 30 B-17's were flown in from the states as part of the Philippine defense build-up. There were several aged fighter planes in place and over 50 percent of all aircraft were destroyed or damaged during the first attack.

After reviewing intelligence reports that indicated overwhelming Japanese forces near the Philippines, General MacArthur directed that the remainder of serviceable B-17's be flown to safe airfields outside the Island of Luzon for future long range bombing.

Aircraft losses at other airfields on the island of Luzon amounted to 50 percent or more. The remaining aircraft were successful in afflicting great losses to Japanese aircraft, ships, and soldiers, which helped in delaying the Japanese timetable for occupying the Philippines.

Japanese Ground Offensive Against Luzon Island

The Japanese began their ground offensive against Luzon on 10 December 1941. Twelve Japanese troop transports with naval escorts landed troops at Vigan on the west coast and north at Aparri. Although more than half of the aircraft were damaged or destroyed at Clark Air Field during the initial attack three days earlier, the Philippine Air Force was able to inflict moderate damage to the Japanese ships,

sinking four transports and damaging three. These landings were not the main force, it was a diversionary tactic to protect the flanks of the main force that landed two days later south at Legaspi with massive naval escort.

At the end of the first week of fighting, there had been many skirmishes and noted actions, which seemed light in comparison to what lay ahead. The second week brought several air raids, heavy losses of troops, transports and fighter planes. Additional Japanese attempted to land at Lingayen but was repulsed by MacArthur's forces. On 22 December the main attack came. A Japanese invasion force consisting of many thousands of soldiers and equipment landed at Lingayen Gulf. Two days later another large Japanese force landed at Atimonan on Lamon Bay, on the east coast of Luzon.

With the Japanese advancing from several directions with overwhelming numbers of troops and air superiority, it would mean early defeat of the Philippine defenders if they made a stand at Manila. On 24 December a decision was made by General MacArthur to withdraw the troops to Bataan, and establish his headquarters on Corregidor. On 26 December he declared Manila an open city and on 28 December inaugurated guerrilla warfare in the central and southern Islands.

General MacArthur Ordered To Australia

President Roosevelt knew that it was a matter of time before the armed forces of the Philippines would be forced to surrender. He ordered General MacArthur to Australia. General MacArthur departed Corregidor at night on a PT boat. At 7:15 on 11 March 1942, the American torpedo boat, PT-41 docked alongside the bombed-out pier, picked up General MacArthur and his party and headed for Mindanao. A few days later, two B-17 Flying Fortresses were dispatched from Australia to pick up General MacArthur and returned to Australia.

General MacArthur left Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright in

command at Corregidor. On 9 April 1942, Maj. General Edward P. King Jr., surrendered his forces on Bataan because the troops were no longer an effective fighting force. They were almost out of ammunition, suffering from malnutrition, hunger, disease, and had a high number of casualties. On 6 May 1942, General Wainwright surrendered American forces on Corregidor and other posts in the Philippines.

The Battle of Bataan

From 7 to 14 January 1942, the Japanese concentrated on reconnaissance and preparations for an attack on the main battle position of the Abucay line. U.S. and Filipino forces repelled night attacks near Abucay, 10-12 January, and elements of the U.S. Philippine Division counterattacked on 16 January. However this failed and the division withdrew to a reserve position in the Casa Pilar-Bagac area, on 26 January.

For several weeks the Japanese, made cautious by heavy losses, engaged in patrols and limited local attacks. Because of the worsening Allied position in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to re-locate from Corregidor to Australia, as Supreme Allied Commander South West Pacific Area. (MacArthur's famous speech regarding the Philippines, in which he said "I came out of Bataan and I shall return," was made at Terowie, South Australia on 20 March). Wainwright assumed control of Allied forces in the Philippines on 12 March. During this period elements of the U.S. Philippine Division were shifted to assist in the defense of other sectors.

The fate of the remnants of General King's Bataan forces was a secret to the world, when General Wainwright, on Corregidore, received from President Roosevelt a message that would have permitted him to consent to surrender.

President Roosevelt stated "I am keenly aware of the difficulties under which you are waging your battle," the exhaustion of your

troops obviously precludes the possibility of a major counterstroke unless our efforts to get food to you should quickly prove successful. Because of conditions over which your forces have no control, I am modifying my orders to you as contained in my telegram to MacArthur, February 9 and repeated March 23.

I shall leave to your best judgment any decisions affecting the future of the Bataan garrison. I have only admiration for your soldierly conduct and your performance of your difficult mission, and have every confidence that whatever decision you may sooner or later make will be dictated by the best interest of the country and of your splendid troops.

I am still hopeful that the efforts of the Navy to supply you by submarine will be successful and in time, and that at least one or more of the surface vessels trying to run the blockade will reach you soon.

I deem it proper and necessary that you should be assured of complete freedom of action, and my full confidence in the wisdom of whatever decision you may be compelled to make (Signed - FDR).

Surrender of Bataan was a severe blow, but it was inevitable sooner or later in view of the effectiveness of the enemy blockade. The soldiers on Corregidor and Bataan were doomed from the beginning. During the attack on Pearl Harbor the Japanese sunk and damaged ships of the Pacific Fleet to the point that the U.S. Navy could not effectively run the Japanese blockade of the Philippines. The Japanese Navy had the majority of the U.S. ships engaged in defense of Midway Island and elsewhere.

Because of the blockade no ships, or aircraft could deliver food, medicine, and ammunition. As a result, the Japanese invasion took its toll on the soldiers. On Bataan the number of officers and enlisted men were estimated to be 74,500 of whom 10,500 were American officers and enlisted men and civilians employed by the Army.

Some 12,000 of the total were patients in Bataan's two General Hospitals; 7,000 were in Hospital No.2 near Cabcabn, and the remainder at Hospital No.1 near Mariveles. Both hospitals were

overflowing, though they contained only the most seriously sick and wounded. There was no room at all for the other cases, which included some 34,000 unable to fight because of sickness or wounds. Nine thousand of these were in aid stations in the forward areas on the last day of the fighting.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the United States was not prepared for war in Europe or the Pacific. Therefore, President Roosevelt pledged full support for the war in Germany and win a victory, then focus on the war in the Pacific.

A new wave of Japanese attacks, from 28 March, hit Allied forces now severely weakened by malnutrition, sickness, and prolonged exposure to combat. On 3 April, the Japanese began to break through gaps in the Allied lines alongside Mount Samat. The U.S. Philippine Division, no longer operating as a coordinated unit, was unable to counterattack against heavy enemy assaults. On 8 April, the U.S. 57th Infantry Regiment (PS) and the Philippine 31st Division were overrun near the Alangan River. The U.S. 45th Infantry Regiment (PS) finally surrendered on 10 April 1942.

The surrender of U.S. Forces in the Philippines was the largest and most shameful in the annals of United States history.

The Battle of Corregidor

Corregidor was now defended by 11,000 personnel, comprising the U.S. 4th Marine Regiment, other miscellaneous infantry, U.S. Army artillery units and US Navy personnel, deployed as infantry. The Japanese began their assault on Corregidor with an Artillery barrage on 1 May. On the night of 5-6 May, two battalions of the Japanese 61st Infantry Regiment landed at the northeast end of the island. Despite strong resistance, the Japanese established a beachhead that was soon reinforced by tanks and artillery. The defenders were quickly pushed back toward the stronghold of Malinta Hill.

Late on 6 May, General Wainwright asked Japanese General Homma for terms of surrender. General Homma insisted that

surrender include all Allied forces in the Philippines. Believing that the lives of all those on Corregidor would be endangered, General Wainwright accepted. On 8 May he sent a message to General Sharp, ordering him to surrender the Visayan-Mindano Force. General Sharp complied but many individuals carried on the fight as guerrillas.

The defeat was the beginning of three and a half years of harsh treatment for the allied survivors, including atrocities like the Bataan Death March and the misery of Japanese prison camps.

Allied forces began the campaign to recapture the Philippines in 1944, with landings on the island of Leyte.

Fighting on Bataan and Corregidor was intense with constant air strikes and artillery, which was taking a heavy toll on the troops. On 10 and 17 January 1942, General MacArthur apprised Washington of the seriousness of the situation, men were exhausted, food and ammunition was running low, troops food was reduced to one half rations. After nine weeks of fighting, no aid was received from the United States. And little did they know that no aid would be coming until the end of the war in Europe. (Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945). A top-level decision had long been reached that the war in Europe came first, no matter what the cost in the Far East. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, in a Washington conference after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor reaffirmed a policy to concentrate first on the defeat of Germany. Until victory was won in Europe, operations in the Pacific would be directed toward containing the Japanese with the limited resources available. General MacArthur was not aware of any of the discussions at the conferences and believed that troops and equipment would be sent within a matter of days. How wrong he was, absolutely nothing was forthcoming. The Japanese had a naval blockade in place and after the devastation at Pearl Harbor, the Pacific Naval Fleet did not have the resources to break through the blockade to reach the Philippines. General MacArthur and his forces were doomed before the first Japanese bomb was dropped on Philippine soil.

The Marivels Massacre

When Brig. Gen. Edward P. King surrendered his forces, there were two phases: the maniacal massacre which took place over all Bataan when the Japanese met their helpless victims, and the killing continued from surrender areas to the Camp O'Donnell prisoner of war camp.

The Japanese had been taught to die on the battlefield and never surrender. The Japanese now had an army, which had surrendered. Laws of warfare and the common laws of humanity in the handling of other human beings were forgotten by them. The Japanese sliced into their prisoners with samurai swords, bayonets, and in most instances, came in shooting.

The Japanese blood lust was incomprehensible to those whom had been delivered into their hands, and the victims were slaughtered before they realized what had happened.

At Marivels more than twenty-five Filipinos became human bayonet targets to be stabbed and stabbed until life was no longer in them. Along the jungle trails, captives were tied to trees to be hit, spit upon, or stabbed by passing Japanese officers or soldiers as they chose. The entire officer personnel of one Division were either beheaded or bayoneted to death after they had laid down their arms. Many men were buried alive.

The "round up" period lasted more than three days while Fil-American Commanders tried, by couriers, to get word of the surrender to the isolated groups. The atrocities and killings of their period exceeded those during the march of prisoners from Bataan to the Camp O'Donnell prison camp.

Three separate incidents perhaps best illustrate what was happening everywhere in the peninsula. The 91st Division, Philippine Army, was perhaps the most shocking of all.

The 91st did not actually get the surrender message at their jungle position in the I Corps area until the night of 10-11 April, and a surrender contact was immediately established at division command

post, along trail No. 8. The division started marching to the designated surrender point and all seemed well. Suddenly the march was halted when a Japanese staff car drove up to the head of the column. All the officers were ordered to stand fast and the soldiers were ordered to resume the march.

There were approximately 400 officers and some non-commissioned officers left behind. They were then tied in long files, with field telephone wire.

When all had been securely strung together, with none having the faintest idea of his fate but beginning to suspect the worst, they were marched in columns into a nearby ravine, not far from the junction of Trails 6 and 29. There they were arranged in long lines and up and down the length of the ravine. Japanese officers appeared with flashing samurai swords, and soldiers with fixed bayonets. Suddenly a Japanese civilian interpreter spoke out; "My friends, don't take it so hard. You must be patient. Had you surrendered earlier you would not have this tragedy. If you have any request before we kill you, ask it now."

One officer asks that if they were to be executed, it be done with machinegun fire. The request was turned down. The Japanese soldiers started at one end of the lines while Japanese officers started from the other end, the soldiers bayoneting their victims to death, the officers slashing off their heads with sabers, operating from the rear of the formation.

Those whose heads were lopped off by the executors died instantly. Those who were bayoneted died horrible deaths from several thrusts. The first thrust might hit the victim high in the lungs; the second one just below the ribs, and the third through the spinal column. If they screamed the thrusting went on and on until they made no more sounds.

The executions started at 3 pm and were not finished until 5 pm. The last victims were forced to stand and wait their turn.

A second example of the massacre took place in the jungles not

far from Pilar-Bagac Road, in the 11th Division area. A Japanese medical officer gave orders that all who were too weak to march would be buried alive. Eager Japanese soldiers rushed forward with fixed bayonets to force the Fil-Americans to do the burying.

There were scores of helpless men too weak to walk or crawl, lying along the road. A Filipino officer who heard the order went to a group of them and said, "for God's sake, get up, they are going to bury you alive." "But I cannot get up," one whispered in a barely audible voice. "I can't even move my arms." Thinking it possible that an appeal to the man's military discipline might have the desired effect, the officer whispered, "This is an order. Get up! Do you hear me? This is an order." It almost worked. The soldier made a convulsive struggle and fell back. He was buried alive, with scores of his still living comrades, in a scooped out trench.

A third typical case occurred at hospital No. 2 west of Cabcaben. The surrender order reached there the morning of April 9, while Japanese soldiers still shooting within a few thousand yards of the hospital zone. Shortly afterwards, a Japanese detail arrived to prepare an artillery position on the hospital area. Later in the day, the artillery battery moved in and began firing on Corregidor, which, of course, brought a counter battery fire into the hospital zone from the guns on the island.

A Japanese medical officer finally arrived late in the afternoon and advised the hospital staff to continue with their functions. The night that followed was a nightmare. Japanese roamed throughout the hospital at will, taking personal belongings, money, and watches from the patients and staff. The orgy included the rape of a young American woman, mother of a small baby, who remained in the hospital after nurses and other civilian women had been taken to Corregidor.

The next day, members of the staff dressed the mother in a soldier's uniform, cut her hair short, and moved her across the river into a jungle. She had been raped several times.

There were approximately 7,500 critically ill patients in this

hospital under the care of 120 medical Corps enlisted men and 55 medical officers. The Japanese, the day after the surrender, ordered all patients who could stand up beside their beds to start marching on the road to San Fernando.

Since only the desperately ill and wounded were still in the hospital, this order in itself was a death sentence. Within a thousand yards of the hospital, most of these patients had fallen by the road dead or dying. Survivors recalled that the area between the road and the hospital was "carpeted with bodies."

At innumerable surrender points, where arms had been laid down or stacked, the Japanese came in shooting at the bewildered victims. The carnage resurrected in a nucleolus - for the future guerrilla forces. Hundreds of officers and men, when they saw what was happening, took off through the jungles to chance an escape rather than face certain annihilation in the hands of the enemy. Many of them lived to assume leadership positions in the guerrilla movement.

Bataan Death March

The Bataan Death March began at Mariveles, Bataan on April 10, 1942. The forced march was to San Fernando, which was approximately 55 miles away. At San Fernando prisoners were put on a train for another 45 miles to Camp O'Donnell.

The prisoners were not in good physical health. They had been on half rations for almost 3 months and many had contracted diseases. The Japanese were cruel and showed no mercy during the forced march. Prisoners that lagged behind or fell to the ground while marching and failed to get up were shot or bayoneted. Many were beaten and killed for slight provocations or no reason at all. Very little food or water was given to the prisoners and many went for days without both. They were forced to sit or stand in the hot sun without helmets, food and water, anyone asking for water was shot or bayoneted, depending on the mood of the guards. Along the marching route, Filipino civilians tried to give food and water to the prisoners and the Japanese would

beat them with their rifle butts. At San Fernando, the prisoners were put in boxcars for the remainder of the trip to Camp O'Donnell. The prisoners were packed so tight that there was no room to move around. Many prisoners died while standing up in the boxcar on the way to the prisoner of war camp. Several thousand prisoners died during the march and many thousand died after they reached the prison camp. There were many lucky prisoners that escaped during the march and joined the guerrilla fighters in the jungle.

The Guerrilla Forces

After the surrender of American forces, independent guerrilla groups, composed of both civilian and military personnel, began to form throughout the Islands. Many of these groups worked under the control of General Douglas MacArthur's General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area. A recognized military force defined as a force under a commander who has been appointed, designated, or recognized by a General Officer of the United States Army. Service of the Philippine Commonwealth Army in the service of the United States Armed Forces terminated as of midnight, 30 June 1947, by authority of General Order number 168, Army Forces Western Pacific.

Allied Commander South West Pacific Area

General Douglas MacArthur was elevated to the post of Supreme Allied Commander South West Pacific Area after he was ordered by President Roosevelt to leave his headquarters in the Philippines and relocate in Melbourne, Australia.

On 17 April 1942, the Australian government, led by Prime Minister John Curtin, directed Australian personnel to treat orders from MacArthur as equivalent to its own. In fact, for most of 1942, MacArthur commanded more Australians than U.S. personnel. He also commanded some Dutch forces, which had retreated to Australia. Later in the war, some British and other Allied forces came under

MacArthur's command.

In July, MacArthur moved his headquarters north to Brisbane, Australia.

Although MacArthur had been ordered by Roosevelt to appoint as many Australian and Dutch officers to senior positions as possible, most of his immediate staff were made up of U.S. Army officers who had served with him in the Philippines. The Australian Army Commander-in-Chief, General Thomas Blamey, was appointed Commander, Allied Land Forces. However, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy were sidelined from 1942, as their subordinates were put under operational control of the U.S. Fifth Air Force and U.S. Seventh Fleet. Similarly, from mid-1943, the U.S. Sixth Army was deployed under MacArthur's direct control, meaning that General Blamey was excluded from command of a vast majority of U.S. land forces in the theatre after that time.

MacArthur's Return To The Philippines

The Battle of Leyte in the Pacific campaign of World War II was the invasion and conquest of Leyte in the Philippines by Allied forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur between 20 October and 31 December 1944. The battle launched the Philippines campaign of 1944-45.

MacArthur expected the battle to be a prelude to a main engagement on Luzon, but the Japanese commander Tomoyuki Yamashita saw the landings on Leyte as an opportunity to fight a decisive battle. As both sides built up their forces on the island, the battle became the second bloodiest of the Pacific campaign, after Okinawa.

For the Japanese, holding on to the Philippines was vital: it was an important source of supplies, especially rubber, and it commanded the sea routes to Borneo and Sumatra by which oil was brought to Japan. For the Americans, it was a matter of national prestige to show that it could protect its colonial possessions. It was also a personal

matter for MacArthur: two years previously he had left the Philippines vowing to return.

It was clear to the Japanese in mid-1944, that the Philippines would be a logical next step for the Americans after capturing the Mariana Islands. Accordingly, they sent large reinforcements. Good intelligence from decryption of Japanese radio signals allowed the American submarines to sink many transports, by October 1944, the Japanese had more than 400,000 troops in the Philippines.

The first American plans for the invasion of the Philippines was for a simultaneous landing on Leyte and Mindanao to the south, but lacking of landing craft and shipping meant that the plan had to be scaled back.

The U.S. Army suffered over 15,500 casualties, the defending Japanese more than 49,000. The invasion of Luzon followed on 15 December 1944.

General MacArthur's Speech

Shortly after wading ashore at Leyte, leading the invasion force of the 6th Army to liberate the Philippines, General MacArthur made a highly emotional speech.

"TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

"I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil, soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come, dedicated and committed, to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring, upon a foundation of indestructible, strength, the liberties of your people.

At my side is your President, Sergio Osmena, worthy successor of that great patriot, Manuel Quezon, with members of his cabinet. The seat of your government is now firmly reestablished on Philippine soil.

The hour of your redemption is here. Your patriots have demonstrated an answering and resolute devotion to principles of

freedom that challenges the best that is written on the pages of human history. I now call upon your supreme effort that the enemy may know from the temper of an aroused and outraged people within that he has a force there to contend with no less violent than is the force committed from without.

Rally to me. Let the indomitable spirit of Bataan and Corregidor lead on. As the lines of battle roll forward to bring you within the zone of operations, rise and strike. Strike at every favorable opportunity. For your homes and hearts, strike! For future generations of your sons and daughters, strike! In the name of your sacred dead, strike! Let no heart be faint. Let every arm be steeled. The guidance of divine god points the way. Follow in his name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory!"

Battle for the Liberation of Manila

The battle for the liberation of Manila from 3 February to 3 March 1945, which culminated in a terrible bloodbath and total devastation of the city, ended almost three years, 1942-1945, of Japanese military occupation in the Philippines and its so called Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Its capture was marked as General MacArthur's key to victory in the campaign of reconquest.

In 1945, following the Allied landings in the Philippines, MacArthur moved his headquarters back to Manila.

Pincer Drive To The Capital

On 9 January 1945 the U.S. Sixth Army under Lt.Gen. Walter Kruger waded ashore at Lingayen Gulf and began a rapid drive south.

Three weeks later on 31 January the U.S. Eighth Army together with the 188th Glider Regiment landed at Nasugbu in southern Luzon unopposed, and began moving north. Meanwhile, the 511th Regiment Combat Team parachuted into Tagaytay Ridge, ahead of the landing forces, and spearheaded the northern advance.

By 2 February the rapid drive to Manila by U.S. forces began, as units were fortunate to find intact bridges and shallow rivers everywhere they went.

Santo Tomas Internees Liberated

On 3 February elements of the U.S. Cavalry Division pushed into the northern outskirts of Manila, and seized a vital bridge across Tuliahan River, which separated them from the city proper. A squadron of the 8th Cavalry Brigade, the first unit to arrive in the city, began a daring drive towards the sprawling campus of the university of Santo Tomas, which was turned, into an internment camp.

Since 4 January 1942, a total of thirty-seven months, the university's main building was used to hold civilian POW's and classrooms for sleeping quarters. Out of 4,255 prisoners, 466 died in captivity, three were killed while attempting to escape on 15 February 1942, but one made a successful breakout in early January 1945.

At 9:00 p.m., a lead jeep crashed into the main gate, triggering a fire, and its driver, Capt. Manuel Colayco, a USAFFE guerrilla officer, became the first known allied casualty for the city's liberation. Simultaneously, a single M4 Sherman tank of the 44th Tank Battalion rammed through the university walls, while four other tanks entered through the Calle Espana entrance. American troops and Filipino guerrillas immediately followed and after a brief skirmish, freed many of the internees.

The Japanese, commanded by Lt. Col. Toshio Hayashi gathered the remaining internees together in the Education Building, as hostages, exchanging pot shots with the Americans. The next day, February 4, they negotiated with the Americans to allow them to rejoin Japanese troops to the south of the city. The Americans allowed this to save the hostages, allowing them to carry their rifles, pistols, and swords. That same day, a patrol from the 37th Infantry Division came upon more than 1,000 prisoners of war, mostly former defenders of Bataan and Corregidor held at Bilibid prison, which were abandoned by the Japanese.

On the morning of 5 February forty-seven Japanese were escorted out of the university to the spot they requested. Each group saluted each other and departed. The Japanese were unaware the area they requested was near the American-occupied Malacanang Palace, and soon afterward were fired upon and several were killed including Lt. Col. Hayashi. Later in the afternoon, the survivors of the same group returned to Santo Tomas, captured as prisoners the same day.

As the Americans converged on Manila from different directions, the bulk of the defending enemy troops had earlier engaged on a tactical move to the outskirts on orders from General Tomoyuki Yamashita, as commander in chief of Japanese forces in the Philippines. Yamashita had withdrawn his main forces to Baguio City, where he planned to hold back U.S. forces in northern Luzon, poised for the invasion of Japan.

However, Rear Admiral Iwabuchi Sanji, who was entrusted with the holding of the city, and committed to defending it to the last man, disobeyed Yamashita and ordered his Manila Naval Defense Forces, a motley assembly of sailors, marines and Army troops into the city, after discovering several good defensive positions, including Intramuros and nearby buildings.

Earlier on 4 February 1945, General MacArthur announced the imminent capture of the capital while his staff planned a victory parade. But the battle for Manila had barely begun. Almost at once the 1st Cavalry Division in the north and the 11th Airborne Division in the south reported stiffing Japanese resistance to further advances into the city.

Following the initial American breakthrough on the fourth, fighting raged throughout the city for almost a month. The battle quickly came down to a series of bitter street-to-street and house-to-house struggles. In the north, the XIV Corps continued to push south from Santo Tomas University toward the Pasig River. Late on the afternoon of February 4, the 2nd Squadron, 5th Cavalry was ordered to seize Quezon Bridge, the only crossing over the Pasig River that the

Japanese had not destroyed. As the squadron approached the bridge, enemy heavy machine guns opened up from a formidable roadblock thrown up across Quezon Boulevard forcing the cavalry to stop its advance and withdraw after nightfall. As the Americans pulled back, the Japanese blew up the bridge.

On February 5, the 37th Infantry Division began to move into Manila and by the afternoon of the 8th, 37th Division units had cleared most Japanese from their sector, although the damage done to the residential districts was extensive. The Japanese added to the destruction by demolishing buildings and military installations as they withdrew.

Subjected to incessant pounding - and facing certain death, the beleaguered enemy troops took out their anger and frustration on hapless civilians caught in the crossfire, committing acts of senseless brutality, which later would be known as the Manila Massacre, joining a litany of war crimes. An orgy of barbaric rapes, mutilations, and massacres on the defenseless populace accompanied the battle for control of the city, which now lay practically in ruins.

Among the most infamous of the massacres was the one at De La Salle University in Southern Manila, where over 50 civilians were bayoneted to death in the College chapel, including 11 Brothers of the Christian schools. A historical marker commemorates their martyrdom.

Intramuros Devastated

The fighting for Intramuros from 23-28 February became the fiercest but crucial battleground. Already decimated by bombing, American artillery tried to root out the Japanese defenders who used as cover to good effort, the centuries-old stone ramparts, underground edifices, the Sta. Lucia Barracks, Fort Santiago, and villages within the cities walls.

The last pocket of Japanese resistance at the Finance Building, which was already reduced to rubble, was flushed out by heavy artillery on 3 March.

Before the fighting ended, MacArthur summoned a provisional assembly of prominent Filipinos to Malacanang Palace and in their presence declared the Commonwealth of the Philippines to be permanently reestablished. "My country kept the faith," he told the gathered assembly. "Your capital city, cruelly punished though it be, has regained its rightful place - citadel of democracy in the East."

The Battle for the liberation of Manila left 1,010 U.S. Soldiers dead and 5,565 wounded. An estimated 100,000 Filipinos were deliberately killed by retreating Japan forces. About 16,000 Japanese soldiers died, mostly sailors from the Japanese Manila Defense Force.

In the month-long battle, the American and Japanese inflicted worse destruction on Manila than the German Luftwaffe had inflicted upon London, which resulted not only in the destruction of the city, but the death toll was comparably horrifying to the 78,150 killed in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945 and the 84,500 who died in the firebombing of Tokyo by the U.S. Air Force in 1945.

When General Wainwright ordered all Allied forces throughout the Philippine populace to lay down their arms and surrender, the Philippine populace, which might have capitulated or pleaded neutrality, continued to resist the Japanese. Therefore for three years, hundreds of thousands of guerrillas carried on the war, contained the Japanese with small areas of the country, and maintained a radio coast-watch for MacArthur's intelligence operations.

The Filipino people had suffered nearly a million war casualties. In addition, crop production had been reduced by one half, livestock and fish production by two thirds, the entire interfiled fleet and 75 percent of the railroad rolling stock were lost. The city of Manila itself, 85 percent demolished, was devastated more than any world capital with the possible exception of Warsaw.

American aid to the Philippines during the first five years of independence exceeded 2 billion dollars, including war damage claims and veterans back pay.

Raid At Cabanatuan

The Great raid on Cabanatuan in the Philippines on 30 January 1945 by U.S. Army Rangers and Filipino guerrillas, which resulted in the liberation of more than 500 prisoners of war (POWs) from a Japanese POW camp near Cabanatuan, was a celebrated, historic achievement involving Allied special warfare operations during World War II. The raid was considered the most daring and triumphant in U.S. military history.

The Raid on Cabanatuan was re-created, with great attention to historical accuracy, in the 2005 John Dahl film *The Great Raid*.

By late 1944 Imperial Japan's fortunes of war experienced a complete turnaround from its previous dominance. Defeat after defeat met the Japanese Imperial Army facing the British in the China-Burma-India Theater, and against the U.S. and Australians in the Pacific islands. The increasing superiority of the allied war machine was due largely to the successful U.S. submarine campaign against their merchant shipping.

In August, the War Ministry in Tokyo apparently was piqued by the U.S. State Department's communiqué concerning Japan's war crimes against Allied POWs, and issued the **Kill-All policy** to annihilate the principal witness -- the last surviving POWs.

On 20 October 1944, General Douglas MacArthur's forces landed on Leyte, paving the way for the liberation of the Philippines. On 14 December 1944, as the Americans consolidated their forces to prepare for the main invasion of Luzon, nearly 150 Americans were executed by their Japanese captors in a POW camp at the island of Palawan. One of the survivors escaped; Pfc. Eugene Nielson recounted his tale to US Army intelligence on 7 January 1945.

Two days later, MacArthur's forces landed on Luzon, and began a rapid advance toward the capital, Manila. During this time Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, the U.S. Sixth Army commander, was notified of the Cabanatuan camp's existence by Major Robert Lapham, the senior USAFFE guerrilla leader in Luzon.

By 26 January, with Sixth Army forward units nearing Cabanatuan, Gen. Krueger became increasingly concerned of the situation at the camp, and with his intelligence officer, Col. Horton White, called in the special reconnaissance unit attached to his sixth Army - the Alamo Scouts - for a briefing. The next day, Krueger assigned Lt. Col. Henry Mucci and his 6th Ranger Battalion the mission to raid Cabanatuan and rescue the POWs.

On the evening of 27 January, two teams of Alamo Scouts, led by 1st Lts. Willie Nellist and Thomas Roundsville, infiltrated behind enemy lines to attempt a reconnaissance of the prison camp. The next morning, the Scouts linked up with several Filipino guerrilla units at the village of Platero, two miles north of the camp.

In the early afternoon, Mucci and a reinforced company of 107 Rangers under Capt. Robert Prince slipped through Japanese lines near Guimba. Guided by the guerrillas, the Rangers hiked through forest and open grasslands, narrowly avoiding a Japanese tank on the national highway by following a ravine that ran under the road.

The following day at Balincarin, five miles north of the camp, Mucci met with USAFFE guerrilla Captain Juan Pajota, whose intimate knowledge of enemy activity, the locals, and the terrain proved crucial. Upon learning that Mucci wanted to push through with the attack that evening, Pajota resisted, insisting that it would be suicide. After consolidating information from Pajota and the Alamo Scouts about heavy enemy activity in the camp area, Mucci agreed to postpone the raid for twenty-four hours. The Rangers withdrew to Platero.

At 11:30 am on 30 January, Alamo Scouts First Lt. Nellist and Pvt. Rufo Vaquilar, disguised as locals, managed to gain access to the abandoned shack above the camp where they were rewarded with a view of the prison compound. They prepared a detailed report on the camp's major features and the best attack routes.

Shortly thereafter they were joined by three other Scouts, whom Nellist tasked to deliver the report to Mucci.

Lt. Col. Mucci received Nellist's report at 2:30 pm and forwarded it to Capt. Prince, whom he entrusted to figure out how to get the Rangers in and out of the compound quickly, with all the sickly prisoners, and of course, with as few casualties as possible.

He sent two groups of guerrillas, one under Capt. Pajota and another under Capt. Eduardo Joson, in opposite directions to hold the main road near the camp. The Rangers were split into two groups as well: C Company, led by Capt. Prince, would attack the main camp and escort the prisoners out, while thirty members from F Company commanded by Lt. John Murphy would signal the start of the attack by firing into various Japanese positions. He predicted that the raid would be accomplished in thirty minutes or less.

One of Prince's primary concerns was the flatness of the countryside. He knew his Rangers would have to crawl through a long, open field on their bellies, right under the eyes of the Japanese guards. Pajota and Mucci arranged for the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) to have a P-61 Black Widow night fighter buzz the camp while the men made their way across the field. It proved to be the biggest factor in achieving the element of surprise.

Two hours after Mucci approved Prince's plan, the Rangers departed from Platero. Approaching the camp by stealth was relatively easy - Pajota had prevailed upon the villagers to muzzle their barking dogs during the night. Meanwhile the P-61 had taken off at 6:00 pm, piloted by Kenneth Schrieber and Bonnie Bucks, to provide distraction for the next hour, while the Rangers at the camp's rear crawled toward the barbed wire fences. The others, under Prince, made their way nearer to the main gate.

At 7:40 pm 30 January the whole prison compound erupted into the largest volume of small arms fire ever heard, as described by one POW. The Rangers at the main gate maneuvered to bring the guard barracks under fire, while the ones at the rear eliminated the enemy near the prisoner's huts and then proceeded with the evacuation. A bazooka team from F Company ran up the main road to a tin shack,

which the scouts had told Mucci held tanks. Though a truck moved in with a dozen soldiers, the team was able to destroy the shack and the truck. The surviving Japanese were mowed down by F Company.

When the Rangers yelled to the POW's to come out and be rescued, many of the POW's feared that it might be a trap so the Japanese could mow them down. Many of them hid, forcing the Rangers to go barracks to barracks. Many of the POWs resisted because the Rangers' weapons and uniforms looked nothing like those from 1940 and 1941. Many POWs challenged the Rangers, asking them what rangers were and where they were from. One Ranger was irritated by Col. Duckworth, the commander of the American side of the camp, asking so many questions, and finally kicked him out of the camp. Many Rangers had to resort to physical force to remove the prisoners, throwing or kicking them out. Once out of the barracks, they were told by the Rangers to proceed to the main gate or the front gate. Many POWs were disoriented because the 'main gate' meant the entrance to the American side of the camp to them. Many POWs collided with each other in the confusion but were led out by the Rangers.

Zero Ward was a makeshift hospital where the sick and weak were placed (zero being the chance of survival). Rangers carried the prisoners out, and many were so light that some Rangers carried two men on their backs.

A lone Japanese soldier was able to fire off three mortar rounds toward the main gate. F Company located the soldier and took him out. Several Rangers and POWs, including battalion surgeon Capt. James Fisher, were wounded in the attack.

The alerted enemy contingent now poured over the bridge in the nearby Cabu River and into the waiting guns of Pajota's USAFFE guerrillas. Pajota had sent a demolitions expert several hours earlier to set charges to go off at 7:40 pm. The bomb went off and did not destroy the bridge, but blew a hole over which tanks could not pass. Squad after squad of Japanese troops rushed the bridge in a suicidal frenzy, and the Filipino guerrillas, armed with American firepower,

repulsed the attacks. One guerrilla, who had been trained to use the bazooka only a few hours earlier, destroyed or disabled four tanks which were hiding behind a clump of trees.

After the evacuation of the camp, Capt. Prince personally checked each barrack to make sure no surprised prisoners were left behind.

At 8:15 pm the camp was secured and Capt. Prince fired his flare to signal the end of the assault. The Rangers and the weary, frail and disease-ridden POWs made their way to the appointed rendezvous at the Pampanga River, a mile away. The Alamo Scouts stayed behind to help with the casualties and survey the area for enemy retaliatory movements. Meanwhile, Pajota's men continued to resist the attacking enemy until they finally could withdraw.

Thirty minutes later, the Rangers and POWs reached the river. A caravan of about a dozen buffalo carts waited there, driven by local villagers organized by Pajota.

During one leg of the return trip, the men were stopped by the Hukbalahap, a group that hated both American and Japanese. They were also rivals to Pajota's men. One of Pajota's lieutenants conferred with the Hukbalahap, and came back and told Mucci that they were not allowed to pass through the village. Angered by the message, Mucci sent the lieutenant back to insist that pursuing Japanese forces would be coming. The lieutenant came back and told Mucci that only Americans could pass, and Pajota's men had to stay.

The agitated Mucci told the lieutenant that both Rangers and guerrillas were passing through, or he would call in an artillery barrage and level the whole village. (Actually, Mucci's radio wasn't working). The Huks, as they were called, agreed to let both groups through. Mucci, now a little paranoid, worried that the lieutenant might be working with the Huks. He took out his 45 pistol, cocked it, and asked the lieutenant if the road was clear. The lieutenant answered yes and Mucci responded, "It's like this. It better be clear. Because you're going to the head of the column. I'll be right behind you. If there's even a hint of trouble, I'll shoot you first."

As the forces moved through the village, the unharmed Mucci apologized to the lieutenant.

At 8 o'clock, Mucci's radioman was able to get Sixth Army headquarters on the line. The Sixth Army had captured Talavera, a town ten miles from Mucci's current position. Mucci was directed to go there. At Talavera, the POWs were ordered to board trucks for the last leg of their journey home.

The raid was a tremendous success, 512 POWs were liberated. A deaf and almost blind British citizen who could not hear the gunshots, and see the tracers, was missed in the final sweep of the camp. He had a bad case of dysentery and was in the outhouse all night long, and went back into his barracks to sleep at night, unaware of the carnage surrounding him. He was later brought to American lines the next day by Capt. Palota's men.

Unfortunately, four Americans died. One prisoner apparently had a heart attack while a Ranger was carrying him out of the camp. Another prisoner died of tuberculosis just after reaching American lines. Battalion surgeon James Fisher succumbed one day later from his mortar wounds. Corporal Roy Sweezy of F Company was shot by a fellow Ranger who mistook him for an enemy soldier. (The U.S. Army would state in the After Action Report that Sweezy was killed by a stray Japanese bullet).

Twenty-one Filipino guerrillas were injured.

An estimated 523 Japanese troops were killed or wounded.

This feat was celebrated by MacArthur's soldiers, allied correspondents, and the American public, for the raid had touched an emotional chord among Americans concerned about the fate of the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

Two hundred seventy-two former Cabanatuan POWs left Leyte on 11 February 1945, aboard the transport USS "General A.E. Anderson," bound for San Francisco via Hollandia, New Guinea. The Japanese were dealt a great propaganda blow and their radio announcer "Tokyo Rose" announced that Japanese submarines, ships

and planes were hunting the ship. Fortunately, her threats proved to be a bluff, as the "General Anderson" safely arrived in San Francisco on 8 March 1945.

General Douglas MacArthur presented the following awards on 3 March 1945: Lt. Col. Mucci and Capt Prince both Received Distinguished service Crosses. The other American officers received Silver Stars. The American enlisted men and Filipino guerrilla officers were awarded the Bronze stars.

The raid marked the high point of cooperation between Rangers, Alamo Scouts, Filipino guerrillas, and conventional American ground and air units. Without the assistance of the Filipino citizens the whole operation would have been even more difficult, if not impossible.

Postwar Administration

The Civil Affairs Division of the War Department became concerned as to just what part it should play in the postwar administration of the Philippine Islands, and requested General MacArthur's views, he replied:

"It is essential in any liberty given to the Filipino people be at least comparable to that enjoyed under the Commonwealth Government before Japanese occupation. It would be a matter of gravest concern if instructions were imposed whether by direct or individual means, in excess of those existing before the war. If any impressions were created that the United States is curtailing rather than expanding liberties, the most unfortunate repercussions might be expected. The only restrictions, which might be imposed, are the minimum required by military necessity, and these might be imposed as quickly as possible. I repeat, utmost care should be taken that an imperialist policy not be introduced into the situation under the guise of military operations and necessities."

This philosophy was rigidly adhered to by the War Department. On 27 February 1945, full constitutional government was restored to the Filipinos with appropriate ceremonies at Malacanan Palace --

General MacArthur's speech: " Mr. President, more than three years have elapsed -- years of bitterness, struggle and sacrifice -- since I withdrew our forces and installations from this beautiful city that, open and undefended, its churches, monuments, and cultural centers might, in accordance with the rules of warfare, be spared the violence of military ravage. The enemy would not have it so, and much that I sought to preserve has been unnecessarily destroyed by his desperate action at bay -- but by these ashes he has wantonly fixed the future pattern of his own doom.

Then we were but a small force struggling to stem the advance of overwhelming hordes, treacherously hurled against us behind the mask of professed friendship and international good will. That struggle was not in vain. God has indeed blessed our arms. The girded and unleashed power of America, supported by our Allies, turned the tide of battle in the Pacific and resulted in an unbroken series of defeats of the enemy, culminating in the redemption of your soil and liberation of your people. My country has kept the faith.

On behalf of my government I now solemnly declare, Mr. President, the full powers and responsibilities under the constitution restored to the Commonwealth, whose seat is here established as provided by law. Your country, thus, is again at liberty to pursue its destiny to an honored position in the family of free nations. Your capital city cruelly punished though it be, has regained its rightful place -- citadel of democracy in the East."

President Osmena began his administration with this speech: "This is a historic event in an historic city. From the time our Malay ancestors founded it more than eight centuries ago, colonial powers have fought for its conquest and domination. The Spaniards, the Dutch, the English, a Chinese pirate, our revolutionary fathers, have all vied with each other for its possession. But today's event is different from any of the previous conquests and victories. The present victory of American arms is not a victory for power, control or domination, but a victory for freedom, democracy and independence.

To General MacArthur, this campaign has been a crusade. Friend and defender of our race, he never lost faith in the spiritual strength of our people. In his crusade, he is finishing the noble work begun by his illustrious father, General Arthur MacArthur, who on August 13, 1898, successfully led another American Army to free Manila from a European power. General Douglas MacArthur will go down in history not only for his signal military successes but also for consistently following truly democratic methods in dealing with Philippine civil affairs in areas retaken from the enemy. Instead of taking advantage of military operations to maintain military government over territories already recaptured, he has been faithful in his role as liberator in the truest American tradition."

Messages Received

President Truman, who succeeded President Roosevelt, wired General MacArthur: "My sincere congratulations to you and your command on the successful conclusion of the defeat of the enemy on Luzon. You have swept them from all the Philippines and redeemed the promises of the American people to the loyal Filipino people. All Americans are happy that victory has been won with the lowest possible loss of lives. I am confident the powerful base we are now fashioning in the Philippines will play its full part in the final knockout blow against Japan and restore the world to peace, freedom and sanity."

Secretary of War Stimson sent a message that reflected his long association with the Philippine Islands: "your announcement that all Luzon has been liberated marks the achievement of a great military success. It has been brought about with a minimum of casualties. My congratulations to you and to all officers and men in your command for this most skillful and heroic accomplishment. From my own service in the Islands and my close association with their government, I have retained a high respect and warm friendship for the Philippine people. They have suffered cruelly under the Japanese occupation.

I share their rejoicing at the liberation of the main island of their commonwealth. Your great victory hastens the day when the last of the oppressors will have cleared Philippine soil.”

General MacArthur received hundreds of other congratulatory messages from influential and common people.

Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States (the highest civilian decorations are the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor). It is bestowed “for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in actual combat against an armed enemy force.”

Since it was first awarded during the American Civil War, the medal has been awarded 3,460 times, most recently in 2005. All branches of the United States military are eligible to receive the medal, though each branch has a special design. The Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, who act as commander-in-chief on behalf of the American people.

The Medal of Honor is one of only two United States military decorations, which are presented as neck orders. The other is the commander’s degree of the Legion of Merit. The Medal of Honor is often incorrectly referred to as the “Congressional Medal of Honor.”

There are versions of the medal for each major branch of the U.S. armed forces: the Army, Navy and Air Force. Since the U.S. Marine Corps is administratively a part of the Department of the Navy, Marines receive the Navy medal.

Though a Coast Guard version existed, it never was issued because the U.S. Coast Guard is subsumed into the U.S. Navy in time of war. (The Coast Guard was originally part of the Department of the Treasury, and then the Department of Transportation in peacetime, but was reassigned to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in peacetime in (2003).

Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro was the only member of the Coast Guard to receive the medal; in his case , the Navy version was awarded.

The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by American soldiers was established by George Washington on 7 August 1782, when he created the Badge of Military Merit, designed to recognize “any singularly meritorious action.” This decoration is considered America’s first combat award (and the second oldest, after the fidelity Medallion.

Medal of Honor Awards During WW II

Of the 3,460 Medals of Honor awarded since its inception, 464 were awarded during World War Two. There were several Medal of Honor recipients who fought at Bataan and Corregidor. Everyone should have been awarded the Medal of Honor for having to fight a war while sick and starving and the failure of their government to provide any type of support.

More than 15 years before the Japanese invaded the Philippines, General MacArthur gave the president and Congress a report stating that the Japanese were building-up their military capability and requested that the United States do likewise. As usual, Congress procrastinated until it was too late, as a result, the United States Army suffered a humiliating defeat in the Philippines.

Philippine Recipients of Medal of Honor

Douglas MacArthur

Rank and organization: General, U.S. Army, Commander U.S. Army Forces in the Far East.

Place and date: Bataan Peninsula, Philippine Islands.

Entered service at: Ashland Wisconsin.

Born: Little Rock, Arkansas.

G.O. No.: 16, 1 April 1942.

For conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine Islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula.

General MacArthur mobilized, trained and led an Army which has received world acclaim for its gallant defense against a tremendous superiority of enemy forces in men in arms. His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanizes the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people, and confirmed the faith of the American people in their Armed Forces.

Jose Calugas

Rank and Organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Battery B, 88th Field Artillery, Philippine Scouts.

Place and date: At Culis, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, 16 January 1942.

Entered service at: Fort Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands.

Born: 29 December 1907, Barrio Tagsing, Leon, Iloilo, Philippine Islands.

G.O. No.: 10, 24 February 1942.

A battery gun position was bombed and shelled by the enemy until one gun was put out of commission and all the cannoneers were killed or wounded. Sgt. Calugas, a mess sergeant of another battery, voluntarily and without orders ran 1,000 yards across the shell-swept area to the gun position. There he organized a volunteer squad, which placed the gun back in commission and fired effectively against the enemy, although the position remained under constant and heavy Japanese artillery fire.

Willibald C. Bianchi

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th

Infantry, Philippine Scouts.

Place and date: Near Bagac, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, 3 February 1942.

Entered service at: New Ulm, Minn.

G.O. 11,: 5 March 1942

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above the call of duty in action with the enemy on 3 February 1942, near Bagac, Province of Bataan, Philippine Islands. When the rifle platoon of another company was ordered to wipe out 2 strong enemy machineguns, 1st Lt. Bianchi voluntarily and of his own initiative, advanced with the platoon leading the men. When wounded early in the action by 2 bullets through the left hand, he did not stop for first aid but discarded his rifle, and began firing a pistol. He located a machinegun nest and personally silenced it with grenades. When wounded the second time by 2 machinegun bullets through the chest muscles, 1st Lt. Bianchi climbed to the top of an American tank, manned its antiaircraft machinegun, and fired into strongly held enemy position until knocked completely off the tank by a third severe wound.

CHAPTER 4

Holocaust In The Philippines

On December 8, 1941, Japanese bombs fell on Philippine soil, and the first amphibious landings with Japanese soldiers came ashore. This was the beginning of hell on earth that would last more than three years for the Filipino people. The war was totally unexpected and there was nothing that could have prepared the citizens for the degradation, suffering, and the horrors of war that was perpetuated upon them by the Japanese Army.

For eight centuries the Filipinos enjoyed relative peace and tranquility throughout the islands, with the exception of the Spanish and American wars, which were humane compared to the treatment during the Japanese occupation.

The Filipino people are, by nature, benevolent and generous. The civilians of Manila did not provoke or disrespect the Japanese occupying forces, and did not deserve the barbaric atrocities thrust upon them by the retreating Japanese after General MacArthur returned to the Philippines with his 6th Army, and was advancing towards Manila from Leyte.

War is a scourge forced upon mankind by evil men that are motivated by power, greed, wealth, and violation of human rights. In 1941, Japan's plan was to dominate the world, however, their plan was

shattered by the steadfast determination of the American and Filipino armed forces to liberate the Philippines.

The retreating Japanese that were garrisoned in and around Manila did not retreat in an orderly and peaceful way. They killed more than 100,000 Filipino civilians in the most barbaric and heinous manner. The havoc and barbaric carnage that was committed by the Japanese in Manila is the worst ever recorded in history, (considering the totality of the atrocities). There were more than 30 atrocious ways the Japanese inflicted pain and death to the innocent civilians. They burned victims alive, buried victims alive, starved, shot, bayoneted, mutilated, and many other ways.

The carnage by the Japanese in Manila has been referred to as the "Sack of Manila," and sometimes called the "Massacre of Manila." The most appropriate terminology is "The Holocaust of Manila." The massacre of over 100,000 Filipino civilians living in Manila did not receive the media attention it should have, the war correspondents were occupied writing stories of success by General MacArthur's 6th Army. The National Archives have hundreds of stories and photos of the Japanese atrocities in Manila.

This chapter consists of only a few of the stories that were obtained from the National Archives. The stories and photographs in this chapter were ordered by General MacArthur, he directed his intelligence unit and photographers to obtain evidence for use during the Japanese War Crime Trials, therefore, little publicity was given to these stories.

Holocaust in Manila

This account of the destruction of Manila and its people are based on affidavits of victims and eyewitnesses of Japanese atrocities. Their testimony was collected by US Forces that liberated Manila. The affidavits were contained in a report made to the War Department by General Douglas MacArthur. For the sake of brevity, the actual wording of the original affidavits has been in most cases condensed,

but stark facts are exactly as related under oath. For personal and security reasons, many of the persons making affidavits remain unidentified.

Atrocities and Degradation

Manila has been destroyed. The once proud city of the Far East is dead. Its civilian population have been raped and burned, starved and murdered, its women mutilated, its babies bayoneted.

The order that brought this about came directly from Tokyo. Reliable evidence based on interrogation of prisoners of war, military personnel, Philippine officials and civilians, and Japanese documents reveals the staggering fact that the Holocaust of Manila and its attendant horrors were not the act of a crazed garrison in a last-ditch, berserk defense, but the coldly planned purpose of Japanese high command.

Early in December 1944, the puppet President Laurel, made a futile attempt to have Manila declared an open city. General Yamashita made a vague promise and even drafted plans for that possibility, and then flew to Tokyo. But on his return, he moved his headquarters and puppet government to Baguio. From that date, accelerated defense preparations in Manila forecasted its doom.

In the first three weeks of February 1945, commencing with the liberation of Santo Tomas camp, the Japanese began to burn and destroy, systematically, the churches, convents, and charitable institutions of Intramuros, the old "Wall City." They destroyed all of its most sacred and historic properties.

They reduced to a rubble heap the fine old Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, the greatest Catholic university in the Orient and the oldest under the American flag. Only the ruined walls are left of Manila Cathedral, the most beautiful church in the Far East. The Archbishop's Palace, hospitals, convents, schools, and libraries were bombed and burned. The cultural monuments that made Intramuros a miniature Rome have been obliterated.

Outside of Intramuros, the Japanese destroyed with the same cold calculation Spanish institutions belonging to the Sisters of Charity. In Looban Asylum, where the Japanese fired the covenant, were more than a thousand refugees, mostly women and children. In Concordia college, there were more than 2,000 refugee-babies, orphans, and foundlings, sick people and the insane who had been transferred from the hospicio de San Jose. Did the Japanese give these helpless people a comparatively merciful death by shooting? They did not waste their ammunition on these women and children, the sick and the insane. They closed the doors with chains, surrounded the building with machine guns to prevent anyone from leaving the premises alive, and then set the building on fire.

On 10 February 1945, a squad of Japanese soldiers entered the Red Cross building and proceeded to shoot and bayonet everyone in the building, including staff doctors, patients and young babies, nurses, and refugees. Nurses pleaded for the lives of mothers with newborn infants, but all were bayoneted or shot. Then the attackers ransacked the building for food and supplies. Modesto Farolan, acting Manager of the Philippine Red Cross, escaped. Under affidavit, he described these inhuman atrocities.

On 12 February 1945, a Japanese officer and twenty soldiers forced their way into La Salle College where seventy people were living, including thirty women and young girls, children, fifteen brothers and one priest, and the adult men of four families. All the inmates were shot, attacked with sabers or bayoneted. Many who did not die during the attack, later bled to death. The attackers attempted to violate young girls while they were dying from bullet wounds and bayonet slashes. The chapel was set on fire and only ten of the victims survived. The father superior, who escaped, described the massacre under affidavit.

On 23 February fifty bodies, bullet riddled, with hands tied behind backs, were shrunk and gave the appearance of malnutrition and near starvation. These bodies were piled in layers, several feet

high. In another room were eight bodies in the same condition.

On the same date, 23 February, thirty bodies were found in a small stone building 15 feet square. The bodies were all burned or scorched. A Filipino, who had been bayoneted by the Japanese but had survived and escaped, directed an American Sergeant to the chamber of death. He was one of 58 tubercular patients who had been removed from a hospital and brought to the area. They were left without food or water. Whenever one of the patients asked for water or food, he was bayoneted and thrown into the building of the dead.

On 24 February 1945, a heap of 250 to 300 bodies were found in a 15 by 18 foot dungeon, which was barred and closed by steel doors. The dungeon was without light or air. No wounds were found on the bodies and there was every indication these people died of starvation. Position of the bodies showed they had struggled desperately to escape. American officers who opened the doors attested that the stench was like a blast.

Even though the Spanish flag was prominently displayed at the Spanish Consulate, the Japanese fired the building and more than 50 people were burned alive or killed with bayonets in the garden. The Casino Espanol and library were burned. The House of the Auxilio Social and Patronato Escolar Espanol were burned. It is estimated that 90 percent of Spanish properties in the city of Manila were destroyed.

The provinces fared no better. On the first of February 1945, the Japanese dynamited the sugar central "El Real," in Calamba, belonging to the Dominican Order. In Calamba 5,000 men, women and children were killed and the town was completely destroyed by fire. Five priests, who after being tied and about to be killed were saved, related under affidavit their experience.

In Intramuros, the majority of the Spanish priests and brothers were taken by the military police to two shelters in front of the Cathedral. When they were penned in the shelters, the Japanese soldiers threw hand grenades among them, and then covered the

entrances to the shelters with gasoline drums and earth, literally burying them alive. Out of 13 Augustinian fathers, only two were saved. Franciscan, Capuchin, and Recollect priests were killed in the same way. Outside Intramuros, 15 Paulist and three Capuchin priests were assassinated.

Dr. Frankel, 55 years old, a surgeon, urologist, lecturer on History of Medicine in the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines and 190 other persons, including men, women, and children, were herded into a room and surrounded by gasoline-saturated furniture which was set afire. Those who attempted to escape were shot. Dr. Frankel, his sister, and one other person survived. Dr. Frankel's story, with signed affidavit, described these tortures.

In February, on the southeast corner of Juan Luna and Moriones Streets, 49 mutilated bodies were found scattered on the grass, the pavement, and in ditches of water. Approximately one-third were babies or young children and about one-third were women. Most of the bodies were found with hands tied behind their backs. On the same day, the bodies of 115 men, women and children were found on the grounds of the Dy-Pac Lumber Company, near the railroad station. The Japanese had shot and bayoneted these people and pushed their bodies into the ditches. Many adults and some older children were tied, while very small children had been killed without having been tied. The children were from two to twelve years old. Some of the women had been pregnant.

Enemy documents relating to the massacre include a Japanese diary entry recording the death of 1,000 civilians by burning, a Japanese battalion order giving instructions that all people on the battlefield, with the exception of Japanese are to be killed.

At the Campos residence on Taft Avenue, 45 women were found cruelly mutilated, with evidence of assault apparent. In this group were several children, all of whom had been bayoneted.

The individual atrocities, as told by the survivors, were countless and barbarous. Women were slashed with sabers, their breasts cut off,

their genitals pierced with bayonets, children were cut and stabbed with sabers and bayonets. Men, trying to save their belongings from burning homes were burned with flame throwers and forced back into the burning buildings. Few escaped alive. An affidavit made by Medical Officer John H. Amnesse list such wounds as teen-aged girls with both nipples amputated and bayonet wounds in chest and abdomen, a 10 year old girl and a 2 year old boy with arms amputated, children under five suffering severe burns and stab wounds. Further evidence of atrocities committed is found in any of the civilian hospitals in the area.

La Salle College Massacre

Brief statement by Father Superior

On Monday, 12 February, about 70 people had gathered for protection from shelling at the foot of the staircase in the southern wing of La Salle College, where I had gone to live at the invitation of the Director when the Japanese took possession of my house and church. A Japanese officer and 20 soldiers entered and at the officer's command the soldiers began bayoneting all of us, men, women, and children, without provocation. Some of the brothers escaped up the stairs but were followed into the chapel where they were bayoneted, shot, or slashed with sabers. When the Japanese had finished, they threw our bodies into a heap at the foot of the stairs. The dead were thrown over the living. Not many died outright, a few died within one or two hours, the rest slowly bled to death. The soldiers retired and we heard them later drinking outside. Frequently they returned to laugh and mock at our suffering.

That night I managed to extricate myself from the dead bodies and hid behind the high altar of the chapel, where I was joined the next morning by eight or ten others still alive. We remained there until Thursday afternoon. At times the Japanese soldiers came and tried to violate young girls who were actually dying. The soldiers ransacked

the building and all the sacred vessels were stolen. On Wednesday evening, the Japanese set fire to the chapel. One of the brothers, who was dying, succeeded in putting it out. The following afternoon the Americans captured the college and took the few survivors out.

The Spaniards were separated from the Filipinos and forced to enter the shelters in front of the Cathedral. In my shelter there must have been over 80 people, many of them priests like myself. In about half an hour the Japanese soldiers began throwing hand grenades through the air holes. We were all very badly wounded. We rushed to the door and the Japanese met us a volley of fire and laughter. Then they covered the entrance with stones, gasoline barrels, and earth, burying us alive. That night I dug a hole through the earth to breathe through. In the morning a Japanese soldier saw the hole, fired several shots through it and packed the earth down again. After awhile I opened it again. I was lying on top of the decomposing corpses of my companions, there were already worms in them, and a swarm of flies covered everything. I managed to enlarge the hole enough for a companion and myself to escape, at midnight of the fourth night.

One side of my body was covered with grenade wounds and my companion's wounds were worse. Rolling on the ground most of the way, torn by barbed wire and sharp rubble, we searched for water, food, and shelter. We did not find food, but I found water in the tank of a toilet at the Bureau of Justice. The next morning I heard foot steps approaching my hiding place and a voice called, come on, come on out. It was an American soldier.

I believe that we were the only ones to escape. Later I learned that the thousand or more Filipinos who were separated from us in the beginning had been covered with gasoline and burned alive.

"I am a nurse 22 years old. On at least two occasions I was an actual eyewitness at the killing of an estimated 75 to 100 civilians."

On each occasion, Japanese firing squads composed of about 10 soldiers armed with automatic weapons, lined up the civilians at the intersection of Victoria and General Solano Streets and mowed them

down with point blank fire. Women-folk of the victims who ran out to plead with the soldiers were killed in cold blood before they even reached the soldiers.

I was living within the walled city with a family named Velez on Anda Street. One night a Japanese sentry came to our house. He called into the shelter where five were seeking cover, "are there any men inside?" I can speak a little Japanese. I came to the doorway and told him, there are only women and a two month baby." "Keep the baby quiet," he ordered. As I turned he fired and I fell, a shot in the legs and paralyzed from the hips down. I feigned death, with eyes open, watching the sentry. He entered the shelter and approached Mrs. Velez who held the baby in her arms, trying to cover its mouth so it wouldn't cry out. The soldier advanced with fixed bayonet and thrust the blade into the child's head. Mrs. Velez screamed in anguish and the soldier fired in her face, killing her instantly. Then he shot and killed Mrs. Velez's sister. From that moment on I do not have a very clear recollection of the events that followed.

"An estimated 400 bodies were found in three different places in Fort Santiago sector. Death from all appearances had been caused by shooting, bayoneting, or starvation."

Report of the 129th Infantry Regiment

The first group of dead consisted of approximately 50 bodies with hands tied behind them. The bodies were stacked in layers, face down, with from three to six bullet holes in each. Their position indicated that a row of victims had been faced against the wall and shot in the back. Then a second row was shot to fall over the first. Then a third and fourth. The bodies were shrunken, giving evidence of near starvation.

The second group of about 30 bodies was found in a stone building 15 feet square. Then it was discovered, the building could not be approached because of heat of nearby fires. Later it was learned from a Filipino survivor that a group of 58 tubercular patients had

been moved to this area from the hospital and left without food or water for two weeks. Whenever, a civilian asked for water or food he was bayoneted and his body thrown in the death chamber. The survivor showed a bayonet wound in his back inflicted when he asked for water. The regimental surgeon inspected the scene, but because of the burned and seared condition of the bodies, it was difficult to determine the manner of death. Wounds could be seen in the chest and stomach regions of some of the bodies.

Later a third group of bodies was found under circumstances which indicated a more diabolical, cruel, and premeditated form of atrocity than evidenced by the others. A strong smell of decomposing flesh led to their discovery. Probing in the rubble of a dungeon area disclosed two closed steel doors was a locked steel-bar door. Inside the airless 15 by 18 foot cage were other steel-bar separations. It is estimated that the room contained 250 to 300 bodies. It was impossible to detect the wounds on the partially decomposed bodies, and there was every indication that they had died of starvation.

Modesto Farolan Acting Manager, Philippine Red Cross

Modesto Farolan age 45, Filipino citizen, witnessed massacre in the Red Cross building. The story of the Red Cross service to the people of besieged Manila is written in the blood of its own doctors and nurses who fell victims of Japanese bullets and bayonets at 6 o'clock in the evening of 10 February 1945, murdered in cold blood with their patients and many refugees, mostly women and children, given shelter when their homes were burned or destroyed.

From Sunday, 4 February to 10 February, my staff of doctors and nurses worked continuously day and night, without let-up, hardly without sleep, food, etc., and without ever leaving the place, for since Tuesday the entire neighborhood was barricaded by Japanese.

Suddenly, Saturday afternoon, a squad of Japanese soldiers entered the Red Cross building and began to shoot and bayonet everybody in

the building. Dr. de Venecia a voluntary surgeon, was preparing with an attendant two cases for operation. Miss Rosario Andaya, a nurse on voluntary duty, was out at the main corridor keeping order among a large crowd that filled the building to overflowing. As we heard the noise of rifle fire in every section of the building, Miss Andaya screamed for mercy to spare the lives of a mother and child beside her. Before we knew what happened, a soldier with a drawn bayonet came into the temporary combined office ward-room where I was. Dr. de Venecia who had just walked over to my corner, Misses Loverize and de Paz, both nurses, and attendant, ducked into our respective corners for safety.

First, Dr. de Venecia was shot twice while he was seated in his corner. The soldier next aimed at the attendant beside him but missed her. She threw herself over to where the two nurses had covered themselves with mattresses beside my desk and saw two patients crouching underneath. One bayonet thrust finished both of them. Another bayonet thrust at the girl that had escaped the first shot caught Miss de Paz underneath. Looking underneath my desk, the soldier fired two shots at me but the bullets passed between my feet, scraping the bottom rim of my Red Cross steel helmet. After me, he shot a young mother with her 10 day old baby, along with her mother, the baby's grandmother, who was nursing the two. That, for all the Japanese knew, finished all of us in the room without exception. More shootings went on around the rest of the building. From where we were we could hear victims in their death agony, the shrill cries of children and the sobs of dying mothers and girls.

The first Filipino Scouts of the advance columns of the American forces reached the Red Cross area at seven in the morning of the 13th of February and warned everybody to clear the area for street fighting. I called to a few survivors to leave. As we began to run, the Japanese machine-gunned us immediately. How many perished in this massacre, I cannot tell.

What could be the explanation for that beastly murder of innocent victims? This incident, among others, threw much light into the

case.

On the morning of the massacre, when the Japanese marines came to make their customary search of the building, they saw me ordering our house-boy and a voluntary attendant to replace the Red Cross flags that had just been blown down. They stopped me saying in broken English, "No good, Americans very bad, no like Red Cross, Japanese okay."

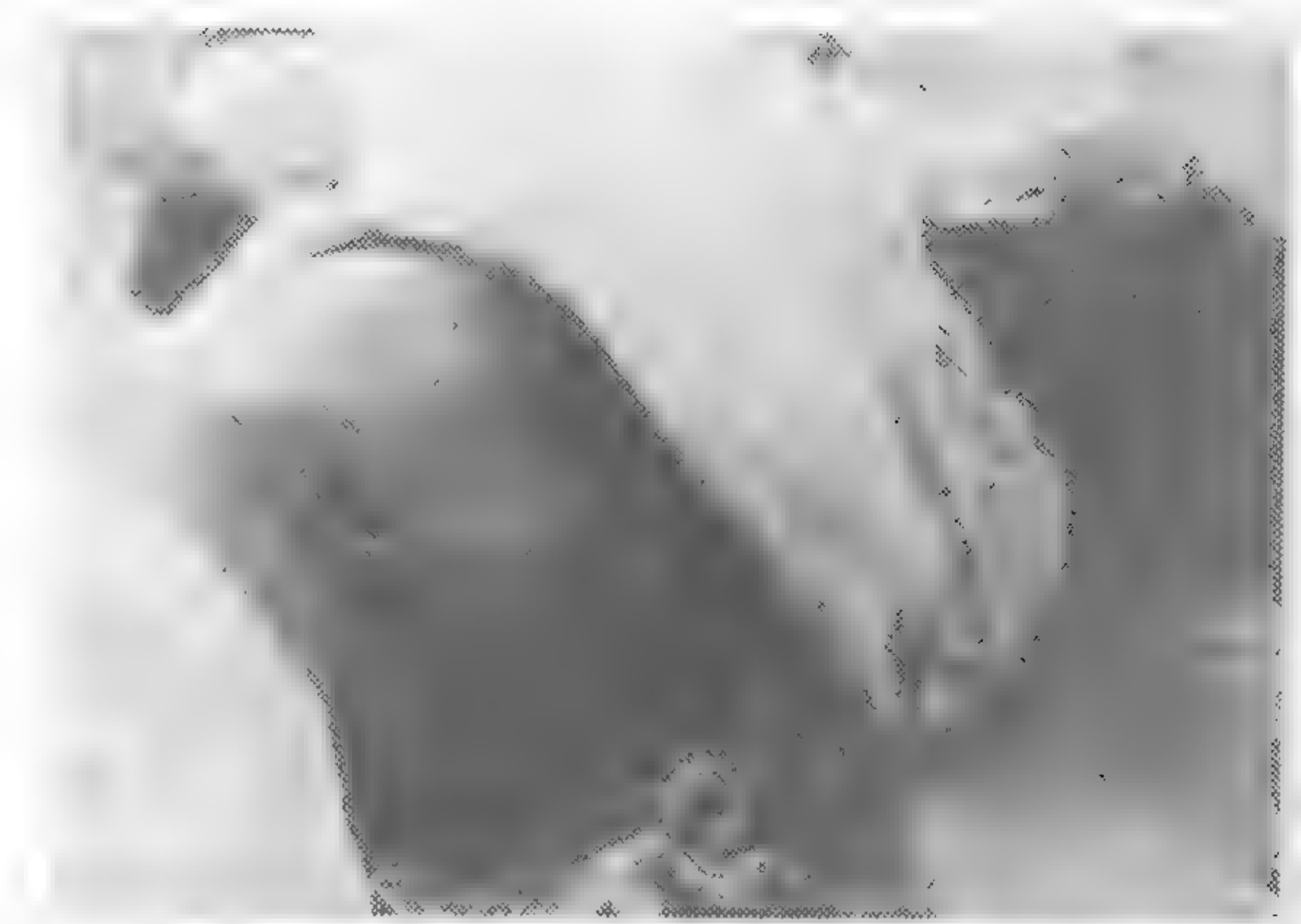
When they came back at six in the evening, what had been in back of all their interest became clear. They did not like the Red Cross. They did not want us there, hence the cold-blooded murder by the "Okay" Japanese.

Conclusion

General Yamashita, unlike General MacArthur in 1941, did not declare Manila an "Open City," which would have freed Manila from hostile activity. After Gen. Yamashita withdrew his troops to the Mountain Province, a large contingent of Japanese soldiers, sailors, and Korean marines stayed behind and defended the city, under the command of Admiral Iwabuchi. Manila had to be liberated by fighting it out, street by street, and building by building.

With the American and Filipino liberators just on the other side of Pasig River, the Japanese soldiers, sailors and the Korean marines proceeded to go from one city block to another, burning and looting the homes, raping the women, and murdering as many citizens of Manila as they could, in biblical proportions. The Ermita, Malate, and Pasay districts were the most greatly affected. The Japanese military, in Manila, declared war on civilian population.

Conservative estimates state the Manila Massacre, which took place in February 1945, claimed the lives of over 111,000 civilians.



Killed by a Japanese Bayonet



Japanese War Crimes Trials

General MacArthur had the authority to convene Military Tribunals, and after the Japanese surrendered, he wasted no time in bringing to justice those guilty of war crimes. Two top Japanese generals were at the top of his list:

General Tomoyuki Yamashita. He arrived in the Philippines ten days after General MacArthur waded ashore at Leyte, fulfilling his promise "I shall return." General Yamashita was sent to the Philippines in 1944 when the Japanese war effort was nearing a crisis or turning point because of the heavy losses of men, ships, and aircraft in the Pacific. He was the commander of the fourteenth Japanese Army and his headquarters was in Manila.

Apprised of intelligence dispatches of General MacArthur's successes and rapid advancement towards Manila, General Yamashita decided to evacuate Manila, and establish his headquarters in the mountainous area in northwest Luzon near the city of Baguio, the summer capital of the Philippines. Before Yamashita departed Manila, his troops and some officers, in a mad frenzy of frustration and revenge murdered more than 100,000 Filipino citizens, and left thousands scarred for life from bayonet wounds, rape, nipples and genitals mutilated, tongues cut out, fingers and ears cut off, etc.

The military commission that tried General Yamashita consisted of a panel of five American general officers. He was found guilty and was hanged on 23 February 1946.

General Masahara Homma. Also known as the Poet General, was the Japanese General in charge of the troops and actions that created the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during 1942 and the bombing of Manila after the declaration that it was an open city.

He was believed to be a very skilled military theoretician, but not a sufficient delegator or practical leader. This is supported by his later dismissal from command after the fall of Corregidor because of the extended time and cost of the operation.

Homma is thought to have been a moderate, not a fanatical

militarist. He attended military academies and Oxford, spoke English and was known to like western movies. During battles, he painted and composed poetry and thus was given the nickname, the Poet General

It is not clear whether Homma ordered the atrocities that occurred during the Bataan Death March, but it is clear that his lack of administrative expertise and delegating skills led to the atrocities. In his defense at his war crime trial, Homma even claimed that he was preoccupied with the plans for the Corregidor assault that he had forgotten about the prisoners' treatment, believing that his officers were properly handling the matter. He allegedly did not learn of the death toll until after the war.

Homma publicly stated that the surrender of the 80,000 US and Philippine troops that the POWs would be treated fairly. However, the Japanese thought that there were only 40,000 POWs and the surrender would occur some three weeks later, a point at which supplies had already arrived.

Homma was removed from command because of the high cost and long delay in securing the American and Philippine forces surrender, Homma retired from the military and lived in semi-seclusion in Japan until the end of the war.

After the surrender of the Japanese, Homma was convicted by a US military commission in the Philippines of war crimes, including the atrocities of the death march out of Bataan, and the atrocities at O'Donnell and Cabanatuan that followed, and executed by firing squad on 3 April 1946, outside Manila.

General Douglas MacArthur had Homma removed from Japan to the Philippines so that his court-martial panel there would try him rather than the Allied War Crimes Commission who were trying war criminals in Japan. Historian Philip Piccigallo said that Homma was convicted of the actions of his men during the march rather than having a direct hand in the action themselves.

International Military Tribunal for the Far East

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East was held to try the leaders of Japan for three types of crimes - "Class A" (crimes against peace), "Class B" (war crimes), and "Class C" (crimes against humanity) - committed during World War II, including some incidents such as the Nanjing Massacre. It did not cover individual Japanese war crimes. Those were dealt with separately, in other cities throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The tribunal convened on 3 May 1946, and was adjourned on 12 November 1948.

Twenty-five Japanese military and political leaders were charged with Class A crimes, and more than 300,00 Japanese were charged with Class B and C crimes, mostly over prisoner abuse. The crimes perpetrated by Japanese troops and authorities in the occupation of Korea and China Manchukuo were not part of the proceeding. China held 13 tribunals of its own, resulting in 504 convictions and 149 executions.

The Japanese Emperor Hirohito and Prince Asaka were not prosecuted for any alleged involvement in any of the three categories of crimes. Kishi Nobusuke, who was held as a suspected Class A criminal but never tried, later became Prime Minister.

The legal basis for the trial was established by the charter of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (CIMTFE) that was proclaimed on 19 January 1946. The Charter of the International Military Tribunal set down the laws and procedures by which the Tribunals were conducted.

Potsdam Declaration

The Potsdam Declaration or the Proclamation Defining terms for Japanese Surrender (not to be confused with the Potsdam Agreement) was a statement issued on July 26, 1945 by Harry s. Truman, Winston Churchill, and Chiang Kia-Shek which outlined the terms of surrender for Japan as agreed upon at the Potsdam Conference. The agreement

stated that if Japan did not surrender “They would face prompt and utter destruction” (referring to the use of the Atomic Bomb). The proclamation stated that the full force of the United States, the British Empire, the Soviet Union and the Republic of China would strike the final blows upon Japan. That like happened to Germany the power of the Allies would lead to “*the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitably the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland,*” Unless Japan ended the war.

Terms of Surrender:

- Militarism in Japan must end.
- Japan would be occupied until the basic objective set out in this proclamation were met.
- The terms of the Cairo Declaration would be carried out and Japanese sovereignty would be limited to the island of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as the Allies determined.
- Japanese Army would be completely disarmed and allowed to return home.
- War criminals would be punished including those who had “*visited cruelties upon our prisoners.*” Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.
- Japan shall be permitted to maintain a viable industrial economy but not industries which would enable her to re-arm for war.

- Allied forces would be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished.
- “*We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.*”

Surrender of Japan

The surrender of Japan in August 1945 brought World War II to a close. On August 14, 1945, at a meeting of the emperor and the leaders (gozenkaigi), the Japanese leadership decided to accept the Potsdam Declaration. The next day, the Japanese Emperor Hirohito made a radio speech to the public, the Imperial Rescript on surrender, announcing the acceptance. The day is commemorated as Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) in the US and *Shusen-kinenbi*, (*memorial day for the end of the war*) in Japan and is generally considered to mark the end of World War II.

On August 28, the occupation of Japan began by Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur. On September 2, the Japanese government signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, which officially ended World War II.

Occupied Japan

At Potsdam, United States President Harry Truman, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had agreed on how the allied occupation of the Japanese Empire would be carried out. The Soviet Union would be responsible for North Korea, Sakhalin, and the Kuril Islands, while the United states and the British Empire would have the responsibility for Japan, South Korea

and Japan's remaining possessions in Oceania.

On V-J Day, Truman appointed General Douglas MacArthur as Supreme Commander of the allied Powers, to supervise the occupation of Japan. Japanese officials left for Manila on August 19 to meet MacArthur and to be briefed on his plans for the occupation. On August 28, 150 US personnel flew to Atsugi Kanagawa Prefecture, and became the first Allied forces to land on Japanese soil.

Constitution of Japan

General MacArthur and his staff prepared a Constitution and it was ratified by Japan. The Constitution of Japan has been the founding legal document of Japan since 1947. The constitution provides for a parliamentary system of government and guarantees certain fundamental rights. Under its terms the Emperor of Japan is the *de facto* head of state but exercises a purely ceremonial role. The constitution is perhaps most famous for the renunciation of the right to wage war contained in Article 9.

The constitution was drawn up under allied occupation that followed World War II and was intended to replace Japan's previous imperial system with a form of liberal democracy. It is a rigid document and no subsequent amendment has been made to it since its adoption.

Official Apologies

The Japanese government considers that the legal and moral positions in regard to war crimes are separate. Therefore, while maintaining that Japan violated no international law or treaties, the Japanese government has officially recognized the suffering which Japanese military caused, and numerous apologies have been issued by the Japanese government. For example, Prime Minister Tomuichi Murayama, in August 1995, stated that "Japan through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those Asian nations," and

he expressed his "feelings of deep remorse" and stated his "heartfelt apology."

However, the official apologies are widely viewed as inadequate by many of the survivors of such crimes and /or the families of dead victims. The subject of such official apologies is controversial as many people aggrieved by alleged war crimes maintain that no apology has been issued for particular acts and/or that the Japanese government has merely expressed "regret" or "remorse." However, according to the Oxford dictionary, an apology is a formal, public statement of regret, and moreover, the Japanese word for apology itself has also been used on several occasions.

On Saturday 18 February 2006, Manila Mayor Jose 'Lito' L. Atienza Jr. and Japanese Ambassador Ryunichiro Yamazaki lead a wreath-laying ceremony at the Momorare Monument at the Plazuela de Sta. Isabel in Intramuros, Manila in commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the Battle for the Liberation of Manila. The following day, the following article appeared in all Philippine leading newspapers: Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki yesterday expressed Japan's first-ever apology for its military's atrocities during the Battle for the Liberation of Manila in the last stages of World War II, a battle widely believed to have unnecessarily cost the lives of 100,000 Filipino civilians.

In the commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the Battle for the Liberation of Manila, Yamazaki expressed Japan's remorse over its role in World War II, and apologized for the 100,000 Filipino casualties in that battle alone.

Yamazaki, along with Manila Mayor Jose "Lito" L. Atienza Jr. and members of the Memorare Manila 1945 Foundation, laid wreaths of flowers at the historical monument in Intramuros, Manila established to commemorate the 100,000 Filipino civilian casualties.

In his speech, Yamazaki mentioned the Japanese military's atrocities during the Battle for Manila, and apologized for those acts committed during the desperate fight to maintain control over

Manila, amid a returning American Military force.

"The terror that each Filipino man, woman, and child must have experienced in Manila 61 years ago is beyond imagination of any sane human being. With this historical fact in mind, I would like to express my heartfelt apologies and deep sense of remorse over the tragic fate of Manila," Yamazaki said.

Yamazaki also assured Japan's continued cognizance of the adverse effects of its role in World War II, as the penalties prescribed by international treaties for its invasion of neighboring countries have "legally already been settled."

"Let me also reiterate the Japanese government's determination not to allow the lessons of that horrible World War II to erode, and to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world without ever waging a war," Yamazaki said.

Ambassador Yamazaki's apology was sincere and specific in regard to the battle for the Liberation of Manila, and hopefully will satisfy previous complaints to that effect.

Since I was in the Philippines interviewing Filipino veterans of World War II, visiting battle sites and monuments, and gathering information to write this book, I took the opportunity to ask residents of Manila questions about the liberation of Manila, and the ceremony that was taking place. One Filipino WW II veteran was adamant about his hatred of the Japanese, he was honest in his steadfast point of view that he would never forgive and forget. It is normal for anyone to feel that way after seeing and experiencing the horrors the atrocities caused. Another WW II veteran was more forgiving, he said "For a long time, I kept hatred bottled up in my heart, my heart was heavy and my thoughts were raging through my mind like a wild fire. I ask God to lift this heavy burden from my soul so that I could live a happy and productive life. Fortunately my prayers were answered, the burden was lifted, and as the years passed, I developed a better understanding of what happened, I forgave, but I will not forget. I take comfort that almost all the Japanese soldiers that committed bad

things against our people were killed before the war ended, and the guilty that surrendered, were executed by military trials." A business owner was born 10 years after the Liberation of Manila, said that when she was a child, she heard stories about the Japanese atrocities, and it influenced her way of thinking that Japanese were bad people, and she maintained that image throughout her college years. A few years after graduating from college, she opened her own business in Manila which attracted mostly tourists. She said that she was amazed at how gracious and polite the Japanese were, and in her opinion, they are number one among the tourists.

When judging the Japanese, one should never think about World War II, that was another era and the citizens were under the administration of a different form of government. The inclusion of the Potsdam Declaration and the Japanese Constitution adopted in 1947, gives one a better understanding of the radical change in the lives of Japanese citizens after 1947.

In today's society, the Japanese are wonderful and compassionate people. Japan has made significant contributions to the world in terms of improving quality of life and well being for the world's population, for example; contributions in science and technology, exports and imports, number two as major foreign development aid donor (donates almost as much as the United States), in third place with highest gross domestic product per capita. Japan is to be commended for their role in today's society, they have paid the debt of their ancestors, they apologized for the Army's atrocities during World War II, even though the generations after the 1947 constitution is not responsible for their ancestors no more than today's citizens in the United States being responsible for slavery in the 1800's. From this day forward, Japan owes no one an apology.

General Douglas MacArthur is responsible for preparing the Japanese constitution, a constitution that has endured 59 years with no significant changes. In addition to being the greatest American general he was also an astute Statesman, the five and half years he was in Japan, the citizens highly respected and adored him, as did the citizens of the Philippines.

CHAPTER 5

Filipino Veterans of World War II

Several books and movies have been produced about World War II in the Philippines, mostly from the American point of view. This book is historical in content concerning the Philippines and its people, including the trials and tribulations of the citizens during World War II. To the maximum extent possible, the Filipino perspective has been in the forefront while writing this book.

While working in Saudi Arabia twenty-five years ago, a friend told me stories about his life as a six year old in Manila during the Japanese occupation. The Japanese soldiers allowed him to enter the garrison to clean their boots and living area, and in exchange gave him food. If there was food left over from the evening meal, they allowed him to take some home to his family. Since he was working for them, the soldiers treated him in a manner of speaking, like a family member. The few soldiers that spoke English told him about bad things the soldiers were doing to the citizens and warned him that if he did bad things at the garrison, they would punish him the same way. My friend remembered in vivid detail those stories, and stories his father and others told about the Japanese atrocities. He suggested that I write a book.

January 2006, twenty-five years later, I honored his suggestion.

In the planning stage, I wanted to include personal stories of Filipino World War II veterans, however, I had doubts about getting this information since the Philippine Islands consist of 7,107 islands and the veterans were scattered throughout the inhabited islands, the surviving veterans would be 80 plus years old, and the Privacy Act prevented the release of their names and address. I contacted the American Veteran Affairs office in Manila, before departing the states for a two month stay in the Philippines, and they were most helpful in providing me the name and address of the National Commander of the Philippine Veterans Legion in Manila, Commander Francisco G. Cedula.

I credit Commander Frank Cedula for the Veterans stories in this chapter. Veterans occasionally stop by his office for various reasons and Frank arranged interviews for me for which I am grateful. Frank is an 84 year old World War II veteran, who was severely wounded during the war. He displayed Filipino hospitality in the finest tradition, he has compassion, character, and all the attributes that make the people of the Philippines great.

The veterans I interviewed ranged in age from 83 to 96 years old, their arms were not steeled like they were when General MacArthur made his famous speech shortly after he waded ashore at Leyte, to liberate the Philippines sixty-one years ago. One sentence in his speech stated "let every arm be steeled."

The Filipino veterans were eager to be interviewed. As a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam conflict, I did not experience actual combat, however, I was in a combat support role four years. I am aware of the horrors and hardship the Filipino people experienced during World War II, and this knowledge and experience made me appreciate and respect the Filipino veterans. It was a great honor for me to interface with them.

During the interview, I ask the veterans to relate a personal story they experienced during the war. I did not want them to revisit or recall actual battles or the hardship they experienced during the

Bataan death march, those stories were previously told and would be mundane. The following stories were experienced by a great group of veterans.

World War II Stories by Filipino Veterans Stories Never Before Revealed in Writing

Francisco G. Cedula

It was dawn on 22 December 1941, when Francisco's long convoy of civilian buses commandeered by the military, reached the outskirts of Pagsanjan, Laguna, where their battalion sized force disembarked and bivouacked to await further orders.

A recent graduate of high school with two months summer cadre training, which automatically made Francisco a reservist, he was inducted into the USAFFE and assigned to Combat Co., 1st Regular Division, together with other six month trainees and volunteers with hardly any military training. They were a part of a hastily organized force that, he was to learn later, was intended to oppose an expected enemy landing in the eastern coast of Luzon, later known as the front. The following night, they were divided into several groups and bussed to Mauban, a coastal town facing Lamon Bay.

Shortly after their convoy crossed the Pagsanjan River Bridge, they heard a loud explosion. At that time they did not know what caused the explosion. They learned later that the USAFFE engineers destroyed the vital bridge connecting Pagsanjan with the eastern town of Laguna. Clearly, their force had become dispensable and meant to be sacrificed as a rear guard unit.

This was the first time in Francisco's life that he had been that far away from home. There was much excitement within his group, equally young and full of energy. Inspired by his superior's claim that Filipino soldiers will easily defeat the Japanese, (since the Filipinos considered Japanese residents in Manila as an inferior race). Francisco's unit flashed the victory sign to the people standing and

watching by the roadside, applauding as they passed by.

They passed by a column of several medium sized US tanks, parked on the roadside. The tanks and soldiers were attached to the 174th Tank Battalion, which was assigned to USAFFE. In passing, they never imagined that these same tanks would support them the following day in their attempt to break the enemy roadblock.

An hour later, as they sped towards the east, they were forced from the bus several times to seek cover from Japanese seaplanes hovering above. There was less laughter and jokes by now. Their feelings were now mixed as they met Filipinos running away with their belongings, apparently refugees leaving their homes. Finally, as the convoy reached the outskirts of the town of Sampaloc, a tall, lean American officer, later identified as General Albert M. Jones, appeared and signaled the convoy to stop.

After a brief meeting, everyone in the convoy were ordered off the busses and directed to form a defensive position, including digging foxholes. As anticipated, the Japanese forces identified as the 20th Regiment 16th Division, came ashore on Christmas eve and were supported by naval guns and aircraft.

With their superior artillery firepower, the Japanese overwhelmed the PC-USAFFE first line of defense and by morning of Christmas day, they were probing the Filipino and American lines outside Sampaloc. The 1907 Enfield rifles issued to the Filipinos were no match for the Japanese machine-guns and mortar fire. Francisco's unit had to retreat several times to regroup and attack the Japanese again. By late afternoon the Battalion was reduced by 50 percent. During battle, men crawled in their line, who did not hear the whistle to withdraw, they were killed or captured in the foxholes. Others may have escaped in the jungle and avoided capture. Francisco stated that it was the most unforgettable Christmas Day of his life.

Before twilight, the remnants of Combat Company, 1st Regular Division, joined stragglers from other companies to form a force of approximately 150 men. There was only one commissioned officer

left that was assigned to the Company. The company withdrew from the area. The soldiers were exhausted by the continuous exchange of fire and forced marches and when they were a kilometer inside a coconut plantation, they had no problem of falling asleep.

During the night, Francisco heard Japanese vehicles traveling on the highway moving westward to the town of Lucban.

A Filipino 2nd Lieutenant, Arcadio Mayor, fresh from the Military Academy who took command for the re-organized company, decided to stay put in the coconut grove. The morning of 26 December, Lt. Mayor sent a courier, guided by a native familiar with the mountain trails, to contact the American tanks to give support to their intended breakthrough of the Japanese roadblock, a kilometer from their lines. The courier never returned. Lt. Mayor waited many hours and knew it was hopeless to wait any longer. He coordinated with the troops and finally decided to move out, using the highway to travel to Piis, Lucban, the next town.

As the company traveled down the highway in two columns, one on each side of the road, heavy machine-gun fire opened up pinning them to the ground. The company returned fire, which quickly diminished as the Japanese bullets were killing or wounding soldiers all around. Francisco was fighting beside Lt. Mayor when the Lieutenant fell with a bullet wound to the head.

Flashes and gunfire coming from the other side of the hill made Francisco realize that the American tanks were firing in an attempt to break the roadblock from their side of the line. That action emboldened Francisco and his comrades, to rush through the gap created by the fire of the American tanks. The Japanese were waiting for the Filipino soldiers and attacked with bayonets when they approached. As Francisco was bayonet fighting with one Japanese, someone struck him in the back of his head, and he fell down, the Japanese stabbed him in the chest and shoulder, leaving him for dead.

When he gained consciousness during the early morning of 27 December, he could not get up because of extreme pain and weakness.

He laid there with his dead comrades, hovering between periods of consciousness until five days later. A burial party of residents in a nearby village found him still alive and brought him to their mountain evacuation center, where he received first aid.

Military historians are not familiar with the battle of 26 December 1941, at the village of Piis, Lucban, the second town from Mauban, the invasion port. However, the facts spell out the significance of the battle. It successfully enabled the surviving American 194th Tank Battalion, including General Parker, who was in command of the southern front to escape and reach Bataan to fight again.

About 10 bodies of American tank crew were buried by the natives of Piis, at the site of the battle, along with 100 Filipinos of the Combat Company that died during the hand to hand combat. The bodies remained there for approximately five years, until a US Graves Recovery Team, transferred the remains without any identification to other military shrines.

After Francisco recovered from his wounds, he joined the resistance movement and remained with them for the next four years.

Miguel F. Marcos

It was 0400 hours 3 February 1945, when the US Army's 7th Calvary along with USAFFE guerrillas set foot on soil of Polo Blanca, New Valenzuela, Metro Manila. We proceeded over a small bridge going to barrio Malina and turned left on MacArthur highway, where we were engaged in several battles with the Japanese. The first encounter was at the Japanese GHQ at the mansion of Don Roberto Lapral. A fierce battle ensued; however, it was of a short duration because of the overwhelming number of Filipino and American soldiers. The Japanese retreated and we proceeded to the Niponggo headquarters located in the mansion of the American executive of the Atlantic Golf and Pacific Company, who was imprisoned by the Japanese at UST concentration camp. It was reported that he died a

few days before the liberation of the Philippines.

The battle at the American executive's mansion was similar to the first encounter and we proceeded to the BBB beer brewery (now San Miguel Brewery). The Japanese owned and operated the brewery prior to their invasion and during their occupation of the Philippines. At the brewery the Japanese had their largest garrison quartered there. After heavy fighting, the Japanese retreated, and we continued our advancement.

We proceeded to Polacion-Pulo, where the 61st Infantry Regiment was engaged in heavy fighting. Upon our arrival, the Japanese retreated to Ublham Meycuayn, where most of them were killed or captured.

The 7th Calvary remained at Malinta bridge and moved forward to the railways, where they captured the Japanese headquarters and garrison in Pritel Maria. We spent several days mopping up the area.

Miguel Marcos was a volunteer soldier when the war started and his unit disbanded, he subsequently joined the USAFFE. He joined the Resistance Movement and was designated as 2nd in command of Headquarters Battalion, Combat Troop, Rei-Zar regiment, and attached to E-Troop, 7th Calvary US Army.

Ernesto Agustin

Two infamous POW camps in the Philippines during the Japanese military occupation were the Pangatian Camp in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, where 516 allied soldiers were interned and Los Banos camp, where 5,800 allied civilians were confined. Combined US Army and Filipino guerrilla forces liberated both camps. The rescue of American POWs in Cabanatuan was depicted in the movie "The Great Raid" which was released in October 2005.

A third infamous POW camp in which Mr. Augustin was involved was Bilibid Prison in downtown Manila. The penitentiary was relocated in Muntinglupa, a suburb of Manila, before WW II started. The edifice was intact when the Japanese occupied Manila

and they soon converted it into a POW camp. It was a transshipment prison for allied POWs during the height of the war where prisoners were taken to POW camps in Taiwan (Formosa) or occupied China.

In October 1944, when the US army returned to liberate the Philippines, landings were made in Leyte and Luzon. The number of Japanese guards at POW camps thinned out, leaving behind only a company of conscripted Formosan soldiers commanded by a few Japanese officers and soldiers to guard an estimated 500 allied prisoners at Bilibid POW camp.

When the United States Army advanced towards Manila, guerrilla units operating in the city were requested to observe enemy movements at POW camps. The Japanese were known to kill their captives before retreating, therefore, it became necessary to place the highest priority on liberating the POWs as soon as possible. The opportunity came in December 1944 when a Filipino guerrilla disguised as a cigarette vendor, was near the entrance of the Bilibid camp, he was approached by Taiwanese guards who confided in him, that they want to surrender to any guerrilla unit, provided they will not be harmed and subsequently turned over to the US armed Forces. The Taiwanese knew the cigarette vendor for a long time and believed they could trust him.

The Filipino vendor, who was a guerrilla, went immediately to his superiors with the request. Suspecting this could be a trap, a meeting with the Taiwanese was arranged. True to their desire to surrender, the Taiwanese leader proposed that the guerrilla force could enter the camp while the Taiwanese guards would proceed to kill the Japanese, free the entire camp, and confiscate heavy weapons and arms for use by the guerrilla forces.

The commander of the POWs had to be contacted to let him know of the liberation plans. Second Lt. Gregorio Agustin volunteered to enter the camp dressed as a Taiwanese. The Taiwanese leader took him into the barracks of the POW commander, an Australian who identified himself as Captain Johnson of the Australian Army. Lt.

Agustin showed him his identification and revealed the plan to liberate them. During the conversation with the commander, Lt. Agustin surmised that his plan to liberate them did not appear credible to the POWs. He nevertheless cautioned the POWs that their liberation could be within 24 hours and to be ready. He left the camp the following night, barely escaping with his life.

The following day, February 3, 1944, with Lt. Agustin as a guide, US tanks joined by guerrillas crashed the gates of Bilibid and freed the prisoners.

Felecisimo Torralba **As told by** **Manuel R. Reyes**

Felecisimo Torralba, was a young diminutive child, he was so small that he could easily squeeze into small spaces. Because of his size he was recruited in late 1943 into the resistance movement, by the guerrillas based in north Manila to forage for whatever materials, food, or items that could be procured. It was the 3rd year of Japanese military occupation in Manila, and things needed to survive were getting scarce. The Japanese bought or confiscated whatever food, clothing, and supplies that they could find.

A larger warehouse, controlled by the Japanese located in the district of Santol, Manila, was observed to be filling up with every conceivable item, such as sacks of rice, corn, boxes of textiles, auto tires, car batteries, lumber, cement and hardware.

Of the assorted materials in the warehouse, one particular item, "batteries" interested intelligence officers of the guerrilla force. There was a constant need for batteries for use in operating portable radio transmitters. General MacArthur's staff in Australia ordered the guerrillas to reduce combat and sabotage operations and increase intelligence reports on enemy placements, structures, strength and movements. This increase of activity required more batteries. Therefore, it was decided to break into the warehouse and steal the

batteries.

Torralba was chosen to enter the warehouse, not even 5 feet in height and thin he agreed. The back portion of the warehouse was vacant and lightly guarded. Torralba, with a light bamboo ladder quickly ascended to the roof and removed enough roofing to squeeze through. Three guerrillas scrambled up the ladder to the opening and carted away the batteries. The raid on the warehouse took an hour and the batteries were carted away in waiting push carts to a safe house.

The Japanese appeared to be unaware of the robbery. Elated over their easy operation, a second try was decided, this time they were interested in food. Torralba once again by himself, approached the vicinity, was grabbed by the Japanese who were lurking in the darkness. He was taken to a nearby Japanese garrison. There can never be any doubt that he was tortured as Japanese soldiers are capable of the most cruel methods to force prisoners to talk. But he never did. A week later, the battered body of Torralba was released by the Japanese to the neighborhood barangay leader for burial. His name was included in the casualty list recognized by AFWESPAC after the war.

Maximo Aviles

American P-38 fighter planes started reconnaissance flights over a bridge in what was formally the Sta. Mesa district of Manila. It was early morning of the 1st day of February 1945, and the news over the short wave radio announced that a column of tanks of the US Army's 1st Calvary had reached Clark Air Base in northern Luzon. Small patrols of Japanese were observed marching eastward. This was the scenario on that particular day when Maximo Aviles, a member of the guerrilla force operating in the area of Manila, was ordered by his commander to scout the movements of the nearby Japanese garrison.

Creeping forward, unmindful of the danger he faced as there were

Japanese sentries posted. He surveyed the strength of the camp, what he saw horrified him. The entire camp was surrounded by Japanese guards that were guarding approximately 100 old men, women and children. He knew they were being used as human shields in the event of aircraft strikes or attack by the Armed forces. The Japanese had the flag of the rising sun hoisted atop their camp headquarters. The P-38s had made several passes over the camp and saw the group of civilians, therefore, the pilots refused to strafe or bomb the camp.

To warn other aircraft that civilian hostages were being held as human shields at the camp, the guerrilla leader thought of several ways, however, all presented the possible loss of many lives. The final solution was to display an American flag on the nearby bridge, knowing that American pilots would not attack. That night half dozen girls rushed the sewing of an American flag. Time was of the essence, sewing all night, the best that they could do was to create a US flag with 10 strips and 20 stars.

Maximo, agile and strong at age 17, was selected to hoist the US flag on top of the Ste. Mesa Bridge when aircraft appeared. As soon as daylight came, Maximo was given the flag, he knew he could be easily spotted by the Japanese sentries approximately 100 meters away. With the flag tied to a long pole, he waited for aircraft to come. He did not wait long, an hour later two P-38s appeared, with their engines becoming louder and louder, Maximo scrambled from his hiding place and ran to the top of the bridge, waving the flag as the planes swooped over the bridge.

The Japanese saw him as he waved the flag, but could only fire sporadically as they were also hiding from the planes. Two sweeps of the P-38s was enough for recognition of the situation by the pilots and they departed wagging their wings to let the guerrillas know they would not attack.

Within a short period of time, the Japanese departed the camp, leaving the community unharmed. Two days later, the 1st cavalry arrived at St. Tomas University concentration camp, and continued

pursuit of the fleeing Japanese.

Angel S. Suarez

Receiving his high school diploma weeks after the Japanese landing in Lingayen, on December 10, 1941, Angel was too late for induction into the United States Armed Forces Far East (USAFFE), since they were already retreating to Bataan. Angel, fresh from high school, wanted to help his countrymen fight the Japanese invaders that were marching into Manila at the end of December. The Japanese troops occupied all power plants, government buildings, and the entire port of Manila. A very important facility left intact was a dry dock and shipyard on Engineering Island at the mouth of Pasig River, which the Japanese renamed Hakodate Dockyards. The dock yard and shipyard were used to re-float and repair sunken craft and repair damaged ships using Filipino labor, supervised by Japanese Navy officers. It became the most important naval port held by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands.

Angel contacted other reservists, who like him, failed to join the Army, but were members of an under ground organization, that was later known as Fil-American Irregular Troops, led by Colonel Hugh Straughn, an American Army officer. Angel joined the guerrilla unit and offered to spy and gather intelligence information. The intelligence network wanted information on the location, strength, and activities of the Japanese units. The Hackodate Dockyard in Manila was one of the most important ports and Angel devised a plan to gain entrance to the heavily guarded facility.

Before the war, Angel's family lived in Santol district of Manila adjoining a small Japanese community. Angel was close friends with several Japanese boys. He applied his friendship with one of his Japanese friends, he asked him to be recommended for a job at the dry docks since there was a big demand for labor. Angel's friendship prevailed and he was hired immediately and employed as a timekeeper. This was an ideal position, it allowed him to walk around

the entire port facilities without suspicion.

For almost a year, Angel surveyed and plotted the location of the piers, dry docks, ship ways, power plants and storage facilities.

In 1943, Japanese counter intelligence began an intense inquiry of Filipino employees, they received information that the Allied Intelligence Bureau of the United States were receiving intelligence reports from Filipino spies that were sending intelligence reports to General MacArthur in Australia. Forewarned and knowing the consequences if he were caught, Angel immediately departed Manila in a boat, carrying him to Pagsanjan, Laguna, where he participated in many skirmishes with the Japanese army in the Sierra Madre Mountains.

In August 1944, United States Navy planes began bombing facilities in the Philippines of strategic importance. One target was the Hodake Dockyards, which was completely destroyed.

Alfredo Ares

Mr. Ares wartime service started as a guerrilla fighter in 1943 when he was recruited into the 103rd guerrilla battalion. Later he resigned after serving almost a year and joined the 206th battalion as a First Sergeant.

The commanding officer of the 206th was Captain Dionco, who proved to be a good leader and fighter. He survived the Bataan death march and the horrors of life in the concentration camp at Camp O'Donnell in Tarlac. The 206th had a total strength of 274 officers and men when fully operational. The unit depended on arms and ammunition taken from dead Japanese soldiers after encounters with them. In 1944 there were secret missions of US submarines entering his area of operations along the coast of Baler in a cove known as Debot. The subs brought arms, ammunition and other war essential materials to continue their war against the Japanese.

The most horrifying experience Mr. Ares encountered was the capture of a guerrilla officer assigned to his unit by the Japanese and

the officer's subsequent torture. The Japanese wanted to know the strength, location and activities of a prisoner's unit.

The Japanese interrogated the officer for 6 days and then dumped his body in a nearby ditch. The guerrillas retrieved his body, it was discovered that the Japanese had driven nails through both feet and into the wooden floor, which caused excruciating pain, especially when the body shifted after prolonged standing. In addition, it was noted that his nose had been cut off, all his fingernails removed, and both eyes were gouged out. It was obvious to everyone in his unit that the officer never betrayed their location or strength.

Ernesto Gomez

Ernesto was eleven years old when the Japanese invaded and occupied the Philippines. Jobs were scarce and almost nonexistent for boys his age in the Manila area. Therefore, he considered himself and his 10 year old friend extremely lucky when they landed a job at a Japanese camp, working for the cooks. Their job was to keep the kitchen and cooking utensils clean and to search for vegetables to mix with rice.

After a few months working in the kitchen Ernesto and his friend were instructed to get vegetables. After a few hours of searching, they could not find any vegetables. Ernesto knew that if they returned without anything, that they would be punished by the Japanese. At times they had used only the leaves from sweet potatoes and decided to look for leafy plants that had similar leaves. It didn't take long to find something similar to the potato leaf, and they harvested enough for the evening meal. Upon return to camp, they washed the leaves and put them in the pots of boiling rice.

The evening meal was served promptly at 5 o'clock; the soldiers received their food and went outside to eat. Ernesto wanted to see the reaction of the soldiers when they ate their food, if it was favorable, he knew his problem of finding things to add to the rice was solved, he went outside with his friend, and immediately saw the soldiers

gagging and spitting up the food, and at the same time heard one of the cooks yell, "where are those two boys," Ernesto told his friend, let's get out of here, run as fast as you can.

They wound up in the tower of a church in the nearby village. The next morning they stayed in the church, figuring that the Japanese were looking for them. Later in the morning he saw three Japanese soldiers walking down the street with rifles and fixed bayonets, when they approached a woman carrying a baby, one of the soldiers took the baby from her and tossed the baby as high as he could, while another soldier ran under the falling baby and it came down on the bayonet. This event was so horrifying to him that he lay flat on the floor and his body started shaking in an uncontrolled manner. His memory of how long the uncontrolled shakes lasted was erased from his mind. The next thing he remembered was waking up in the late evening.

Around midnight, there were no people on the street, Ernesto and his friend left the church and headed for the jungle and met up with a guerrilla unit, who allowed them to stay with them. The guerrilla unit often engaged in combat with the Japanese, however, Ernesto was too young and did not have training on using a weapon, when fighting started Ernesto and his friend would climb a tree and watch the battle from that position.

During a skirmish with the Japanese, Ernesto was in his usual place at the top of a tree, when he witnessed a guerrilla fighter that was wounded, and subsequently captured by the Japanese. The Japanese made him dig a grave, they tied his hands behind him and had him kneel by the grave, a Japanese officer used his saber and with one swing, cut the man's head completely off, the head fell into the grave and the body pitched forward into the grave.

Mariano L. Eslao

Was conscripted (Drafted) in the Army in June 1941 and assigned to the 1st Engineering Combat Battalion 1st Regiment Division. Later

he was selected to attend Reserve Officers Training, which was a 6 month course. He completed 5 months training when the war started and did not graduate because of the Japanese invasion.

After the Japanese landed in the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur knew he could not fight a sustainable war because of the overwhelming number of enemy troops, inadequate trained troops, substandard equipment, and insufficient food and ammunition. His strategy was to evacuate Manila and proceed to Bataan and Corregidore where combat strategy and tactics were most favorable for his Armed Forces. At that time no one knew that Washington's plan was to support the war in Europe and let the war in the Pacific die on the vine, so to speak. It was heartbreaking to fight a war on half rations, getting weaker day by day and total lack of support. In the minds of everyone, we could have held our position in Bataan until the war in Europe was over if we had been properly supported with food, medicine, and ammunition. Mariano said that we definitely had the fighting spirit, an aggressive attitude, and the will to save our country.

Mariano was in charge of a 6 man demolition team and on the way to Bataan, was instructed to blow up the bridges; he destroyed three bridges which consumed a lot of explosives because the bridges were well built.

Fierce fighting took place on Bataan, food and ammunition was being depleted at a fast pace and none was coming in. General Wainwright made the decision to surrender when food and ammunition were exceptionally low, rather than see his troops annihilated. Most everyone had weakened to the point that it was difficult for them to lift an artillery shell, and it was certain they could not defend themselves when the ammunition was depleted and was overrun by the Japanese. We surrendered, what came next was the horrors of the "Death March" from Bataan to San Fernando.

Upon surrender, Mariano had a pair of civilian clothes, which he quickly put on, the Japanese never suspected that he was a soldier. However, Mariano was considered a prisoner of war and was in the

"Death March." He was exposed to the horrors of soldiers being killed, deprived of food, and water and many other atrocities.

Mariano managed to escape and blend in with the civilian population. He was recalled to active duty when Gen. MacArthur returned with his 6th Army and Mariano had the pleasure of watching the Army units come ashore at Lingayan.

Mariano was able to see the aftermath of several Japanese atrocities against guerrilla fighters and suspected guerrillas. The Japanese, as usual, were cruel and merciless. One guerrilla was caught and tied to a post in the market place and labeled "guerrilla," he was bayoneted to death and left for someone to bury him. Another painful atrocity was to remove the heads of matches and insert them in the victim's penis and light the matches. The most heinous, was the "water treatment," The victim is tied to a table top and water forced into the body until excessive bloating occurs, and then bayoneted. He was witness to several other atrocities.

Wenceslao N. Rodriguez

Wenceslao was employed as a truck driver for the Luzon Brokerage Company on 8 December 1941, when World War II was declared. On 9 December, the US Army commandeered his truck and inducted him into the Armed Forces. He was assigned as a truck driver with the 71st Division, USAFFE.

He endured battles at Bataan and when General Wainwright surrendered the Armed Forces on Bataan to the Japanese, he became one of the Bataan Death Marchers, which almost took his life. The only thing that kept him going was fear - fear of the brutality displayed by the Japanese guards.

While incarcerated at Camp O'Donnell, he was assigned to the burial detail. There were so many POWs dying that the POWs dug long trenches and bodies were stacked upon each other.

The Japanese released all Filipino prisoners within 6 months of capture and were given a release, which was written in Japanese and

English.

The Philippines was a territory of the United States until 1946. When the war started President Roosevelt authorized Gen. MacArthur to induct additional Filipinos into the Armed Forces. While thousands of Filipinos were recognized and receive VA benefits, the VA had consistently denied Wenceslao benefits, stating "The appellant has not met the basic service eligibility requirements and may not be considered a veteran for purpose of benefits." The documentation Wenceslao submitted was; the release from the Japanese POW Camp, letter from the US Army records center in St. Louis, MO., showing his status as a veteran was recognized and recorded in the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, and form letter from the Army records center in St. Louis, indicating that he was awarded 2 bronze stars. It appears that all the evidence needed was submitted, however, VA has a long history of denying claims.

Amando Guarina, Jr.

Amando was a high school teenager employed as a messenger by the Associated Press in Manila when WW II began in the Philippines. He ran errands for his boss, Rey Cronin, bureau chief, including buying his favorite sandwich in Tom's Dixie Kitchen in downtown Manila. The war in the Philippines changed all that. The Japanese occupied Manila, which was declared an open city, and shortly thereafter arrested all American nationals and allied citizens. They were taken to Sto. Thomas University which had been converted into a prisoner of war camp.

Amando's father, Amando Guarina Sr., was Cronin's assistant as correspondent of the Associated Press before the war began and a month after. This story is more about Amando's father and Rey Cronin.

Armando Guarina, being an avowed pro-American, decided to fight the Japanese by joining the resistance movement, which was mushrooming all over the country. After the surrender of Bataan in

April 1942 and with his connections, he was able to join Captain Bernard Anderson's guerrilla unit which consisted of both soldiers and civilians. Captain Benard Anderson was an American officer assigned to USAFFE, who escaped from the Bataan Death March and established a guerrilla unit. In a few months Captain Anderson's command stretched all over the Bicol peninsula to other units he established. Amando was assigned to Anderson's staff and his primary duty was intelligence officer. He gathered vital information about the enemy and their movements in Manila. He lost no time visiting his boss, Rey Cronin in the concentration camp.

During the early Japanese occupation, the Japanese were trying to win the friendship of Filipinos. They were lenient in guarding the POWs which allowed Rey Conin to move about freely among all the prisoners. Rey confided to Amando that he had gathered a lot of information by the Associated Press and hidden it in the camp. These documents, Cronin believed, could be valuable information to the Americans in the war effort.

During one of Amando's visits, they hatched a plan for Rey to escape. A leave from Japanese captors to go to his residence and retrieve foodstuffs was allowed. Consequently the plan of escape was prepared, necessary contacts were made by Amando, and a date established for the escape.

The escape was almost perfect. Rey was given a pass to leave the concentration camp, and he had all his confidential documents with him. Accompanied by Amando they proceeded to the railroad station nearby and took the Bicol Express to the the port of Legaspi City, 400 kilometers south of Manila.

Rey Cronin was slightly built, the size of Filipinos, in addition, had tanned skin and easily passed through many checkpoints. It was a 24 hour train ride, passing from one guerrilla outpost to another. Reaching the end of the railroad line, Amando and Rey transferred to a batel (sailboat), they crossed the San Bernadino Straits to Samar and Leyte. They were now in guerrilla territory of Col. Ruperto Kangleon,

where Rey was left to continue his journey. The two parted ways in Samar, and Amando returned to Manila while Rey remained behind, awaiting the arrival of an American submarine. As historical records indicate, Rey Cronin was one of 450 allied civilians and military personnel that were evacuated from the Philippines by submarines.

Confidential information after the war, revealed that the submarine, USS Spyron was the submarine that carried Rey Cronin to Australia. Rey Cronin never returned to the Philippines.

Amando Guarina Sr's trip back to Manila was a nightmare. On board the Bicol Express, enroute to Manila the train was suddenly stopped by Japanese soldiers in the Plaza, the entire day was spent under the sweltering sun. Late in the afternoon a spy with his face covered with a hood, picked out suspected guerrillas among the passengers. Pointing out a few guerrillas, he included Amando. They were taken to the nearby town hall, forced to divulge their identity by beatings and pulling out fingernails. Guarina got the worst beating with his mouth bashed in by a rifle butt.

Medardo Jamiro

Medardo Jarmiro was 19 years old when the war started in December 1941. While in high school he attended summer cadre training, which made him a reservist. Four days after Pearl Harbor was attacked, he reported for duty, only to be told that he was too young. Four days later, he reported again for duty and this time he was rebuked for reporting late. He was inducted into the United States Armed Forces Far East (USAFFE) and assigned to an artillery unit.

His unit was assigned to defend the Cotabato-Bukidnon on the island of Mindanao, a boundary, sometimes referred to as 'Bataan of the South.' The area was supposed to be the first and last stand line of the USAFFE defense of Mindanao. It was a strategic location and was invulnerable to any land base force. The artillery unit was situated on a mountain with four tiers of weapons placements facing a blind curved road that was carved into another mountain with a long

wooden bridge about 30 meters from the blind curve in the road. The mountain with four tiers of pre-positioned weapons was considered to be the last defense line in repulsing enemy attacks. The strategy was: the first tier was composed of all riflemen, the second tier was all 30 caliber machine guns, third tier consisted of 50 caliber machine guns, and 81 mm mortar's on the fourth tier. All weapons had a clear view and were trained towards the blind curved road.

To the unit's dismay they never had a chance to defend their position. On 11 May 1942, Capt. Shultz, the American officer in charge, instructed all gun crews to dismantle their guns and stack them near the bridge. Soldiers of the artillery unit knew that this was a prelude to surrender, Medardo along with others, dismantled as many guns as they could and threw them in the gorge.

The artillery unit was eventually taken to a POW camp in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. As a POW Medardo endured hunger and cruelty by the Japanese.

During captivity he was assigned to work in a powerhouse as a lineman and later as an electrician, which was fortunate for him because he could walk around freely inside the powerhouse.

Medardo decided that he could do something for his country. His idea was revenge against the Japanese for the atrocities they were committing against the Filipino people. As a prisoner of war assigned to a specific detail and Japanese soldiers always in close proximity, the only thing he could do was commit acts of sabotage in a subtle manner. His first act was to burn out an electric drill motor by driving a tiny nail in between the coils in the motor. After a month, he was able to destroy half the incandescent light bulbs in stock switching them to 440 volt outlets. Next, he was able to sabotage three large electric motors newly arrived from Tokyo by inserting a sharp-pointed number 14 wire into the coils to remove the insulation from the coils so they would burn when electric power was applied. The next sabotage was large in comparison to the other projects, the searchlights were rendered useless. All underground switchboards to

light 8 searchlights around the Sasa Japanese Navy airfield in Davao were unable to operate and identify American B-29 bombers when they flew over the airfields dropping their bombs.

After the aerial bombing, a fleet of US torpedo boats slipped into the port unseen by the Japanese, and shelled the base, destroying enemy materials.

Medardo and his POW friends were happy and excited because they felt they contributed in a small measure to the successful raids by the B-29's and PT boats and the destruction they inflicted on the Japanese.

After their happiness and excitement subsided, stark reality entered Medardo's mind, if the Japanese suspect him of sabotaging the searchlights, he would be executed. Taking advantage of the darkness and chaos caused by the raid, he escaped into the nearby jungle along with some friends. Eventually they joined guerrilla units and continued to fight for their country until General MacArthur returned and liberated the Philippines. After the war, Medardo Jamiro's service and actions were recognized by the United States Army.

Florencio Bartolome Sr.

At the twilight zone of one's life, there is a time when one can't help but analyze how they lived their life, count their blessings and recall the memories of every phase of their life. *This is Florencio Bartolome's stated philosophy.*

Mr. Bartolome Sr. continues, and relates, "I take pride from my cramped chest, a wishing sigh of relief and wonder how I was able to survive that most horrible but remarkable experience brought about by my personal participation as a soldier during World War II.

On 7 December 1941, without warning, the Imperial Japanese forces began their all-out attack on Pearl Harbor. The devastating attack on the Philippines culminated on or before 18 December when General Masaharie Homma's attack force begin landing on the tip of

the island of Luzon.

The president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, did not waste any time, he ordered all reservists of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines to active duty. With my mother's permission and blessing, and my oath of allegiance, I immediately reported to the nearest PA Headquarters in Manila. After a brief medical examination, we were issued our uniforms and war equipment, including Springfield rifles.

I was assigned to Battery F of the 2nd Coast Artillery Corps (CAC-PA), which was temporarily stationed at the Port area in Manila.

On 24 December 1941, after induction in the United Armed Forces far East, and by order of General Douglas MacArthur, we moved to the north side of Manila to Plaza Lawton. Upon reaching the town of Calumpit Bulacan, we mounted our 37 caliber anti-aircraft gun, when all of a sudden a Japanese reconnaissance plane began attacking us with their 50 caliber machine guns.

Luckily, there were no casualties from our unit. Immediately thereafter, we were ordered to move to Bataan. After a short training program by the American soldiers, I was assigned as a gunner.

We mounted our anti-aircraft gun at Orion, Bataan and dug foxholes in the immediate area. The Japanese spotted our location and it was a daily occurrence to ward off encounters with them. We fought gallantly with what we had. The lack of food and supplies caused our fighting forces to deteriorate and no longer be a viable and effective fighting force. General Jonathan Wainwright had no alternative but to surrender to the Japanese on 9 April 1942.

Before the surrender, our unit was ordered to move to Corregidor, the only transportation available at that time was a dilapidated ship used for transporting livestock. Because of the constant shelling of the Japanese forces position by the Americans to act as a diversionary tactic to protect us, the Japanese were distracted, and we were able to land near the center of the island without being detected. The same

conditions existed at Corregidor. However, since Corregidor was an island, the surrender did not occur until 6 May 1942. Before we surrendered, we were ordered to destroy the remaining war equipment, therefore we dumped it in the ocean.

Unfortunately, the 16 inch guns on Corregidor facing Manila Bay were not very effective at defending the island from the constant shelling by the Japanese at Bataan.

After we surrendered, we had a brief meeting with the Japanese officer in charge and arrangements were made to evacuate us to Manila. After one night at the new Bilibid Prison at Azcarraga street (now Claro M. Recto Avenue), we were again hauled like animals to San Fernando Pampanga in trucks and put in boxcars and sent to Camp O'Donnell POW camp at Capas, Tarlac. Joining the Bataan Death March POWs, I was confined for about 4 months in the concentration camp where I was infected with malaria, diarrhea, beriberi, and other sickness. I was released on 30 August 1942, and returned to military control.

After reminiscing these facts, I feel proud to be part of this historic event, and I am very thankful that I was able to serve our country by fighting for our freedom. If I was given a chance to live my life again, I would not hesitate to do the same thing again.

For this, I wish to advise this generation and generations that follow that the heroism and bravery their forefathers did during WW II was for them to have a free and peaceful place to live.

I also wish to inspire the soldiers of this era and future generations; to follow and obey the framework and preamble of our Constitution.

Ricardo B. Madayag

Ricardo was assigned to C company 1st Battalion 121st Infantry USAFIP, from 9 August 1942 to 26 February 1946. He was assigned to the famous "Hunters ROTC" guerrilla unit.

The name of this organization alone describes its origin and objective. Young cadets, at the outbreak of the war, perhaps more on

excitement rather than anything else, bonded together and dedicated themselves to hunting the Japanese..

Compared to members of other organizations, restless young men dominated leadership positions of the Hunters ROTC.

The Hunters ROTC guerrillas, one of the most formidable and better organized groups in the southern Tagalog provinces of Luzon, was formed in early 1942, by a few Philippine Military Academy and Collegiate ROTC Cadets, unlike any other resistance unit, they did not have any American officers in their organization. Its founder and recruits, throughout the war, learned the irregular warfare and mountain operations, from hit and run tactics, and to beg and borrow from other organization's logistics. There is no doubt that the Hunters ROTC unit was the best and most aggressive of all guerrillas units in the Philippines.

Ricardo was involved in many battles with the Japanese from 1942, until the end of the war in 1945. He was wounded by Japanese rifle fire and hand grenades three days before the Japanese surrendered.

Francisco G. Cedula

The advance elements of the 1st Calvary Division (6th Army under Gen Walter Krueger) spearheaded by tanks, crashed simultaneously into the gates of the UST concentration camps in Espana and in old Bilibid Prison compound on Rector Street (then Azcarraga Street) in the early evening of 3 February 1945 (61 years ago). In both camps were confined thousands of allied prisoners of war.

Had the liberating force been slower or delayed in their rapid push to Manila for a few days, there would have been another liberating force that would have effected a bold gamble to save the lives of 5,000 Dutch, English, Australian and other allied prisoners of war in the Bilibid Prison.

The Japanese soldiers left to garrison Manila in the last days of 1944, were getting panicky as they heard of the American's landing in Lingayen and rapid advance to Manila. Evacuation of Japanese camps

in the Manila area were rumored. The Japanese military (Kempai Tai) were conducting round the clock zoning of known guerrilla hideouts and rounding up male civilians for forced labor.

Francisco was the commanding officer of the Sta. Mesa unit of the 44th Hunters Division, and he was discussing with his officers the strategies to evade capture in their hideout in Sta. Mesa on early January 1945, when a courier from another safe house arrived. The message stated; a group of Formosan soldiers (Taiwanese) would be assigned to the guerrilla units, who will assure them that they will be protected by the guerrilla unit from avenging civilians and will be turned over to the first American unit that arrives.

Suspecting that this could be a trick to lure them from their hideout, Francisco sent the courier back to the Azcarraga safe house with instructions that he would agree to meet only the leader to evaluate the situation.

A meeting took place in an apartment that was demolished on Recto Street, near the corner of Quezon Boulevard. Five Formosan soldiers arrived, fully armed. Francisco and his party were surprised and concluded that it was a trick. Sensing their excitement, the leader who identified himself as Sergeant King, immediately handed him his rifle, followed by the other soldiers as a sign of surrender.

Sergeant King's story: They were part of 25 Formosan soldiers assigned to guard the POW camp in the Bilibid Prison compound. They were under the command of Major Takehiro, a Japanese doctor and seven other Japanese. They were aware of the advancing American Army and wanted to surrender to the US Forces and wanted to leave the POW camp before the Americans arrived.

Sergeant King was certain that they would be left there by the Japanese, but not until all POWs had been massacred. Commander Francisco Cedula mentally calculated a plan that would possibly save all the POWs and discussed it with Sergeant King.

The Plan: All Formosan troops would be protected from the Filipino people, hide them in safe houses until the Americans arrived,

and turn them over safely to the first American unit that arrived. In turn, the Formosans must help save the lives of the prisoners. Francisco proposed; return to the prison, kill their Japanese superiors, turn in their enfield rifles and ammunition (taken earlier from the Filipinos), and open the gates of the prison compound to the four squads of guerrilla units that intended to liberate the prisoners.

Sergeant King agreed to return to the prison, however, the other four Formosans refused to return. Safe houses were found for the four soldiers, mostly in the members homes of the Sta. Mesa unit, who were not so happy about it.

Earlier, Sergeant King identified the commanding officer of the prisoners as an Australian Navy Officer named Johnson. Francisco wrote Johnson a short message, informing him that an operation was planned to rescue them from possible massacre by the retreating Japanese. The letter was delivered to Johnson in prison by one of Francisco's men, Lt. Maximo Avilies, who was disguised as a Taiwanese soldier accompanied Sergeant King when they entered the POW camp.

Probably Johnson distrusted the message and the identity of Maximo. However, Francisco knew that Johnson would be forewarned and take steps necessary to prevent their massacre.

Francisco had had two more meetings with Sergeant King, Finalizing the details of the operation. He said his men were ready to implement their part. All nine Japanese would be killed and on a signal, and the Formosans would open the gate.

Francisco's force of 50 men, armed with assorted weapons would crash into the compound and assume defensive positions for any counterattack by other Japanese elements in the vicinity. Considering the heavy weapons of the Japanese, they would have enough firepower to repel the enemy, until the American's arrived. The short wave radio revealed that the advancing United States forces were only four days away from Manila. Francisco decided to strike two days before which would give him one or two days of defensive action.

On the first and second day February 1945, Francisco awaited the signal to enter the camp from the Formosans.

The American 1st Calvary Division Preempted Commander Francisco Cedula, with its rapid arrival on 3 February. A few of Commander Cedula's men were waiting for the signal, headed by Maximo, were surprised to see the first tank approaching the camp. Maximo approached the advancing infantry, waving the American flag to identify him as a friendly force. He then guided the tanks as they crashed into the gates to free the allied prisoners of war.

The rest is history. And now, all Commander Cedula's unit can claim: is that they were a motley band of guerrillas that almost liberated the POW camp, fate intervened and deprived them of a honorary place in the history books.

It is true that they did not achieve the glory and recognition of an important mission such as liberating approximately 5,000 prisoners of war from Bilibid Prison. However, they earned their place in history as guerrilla fighters, countrymen fighting for their lives, their country, democracy and freedom. Today, sixty one years after the war ended, the surviving veterans of WW II have an asset that is worth more than any mention in history books, and that is "Pride."

Chapter 6

The War is over Veterans Continue to Fight

The Philippines was a possession of the United States from 1898 until 1946. Filipinos had a right to become citizens of the United States during that time, and many did. Filipinos that were members of the Philippine Scouts were considered to be regular U.S. Army personnel, and were entitled to benefits, the same as U.S. Army personnel.

On 27 July 1941, General MacArthur was recalled to active duty in anticipation of the Japanese threat in the Pacific. In August 1941, President Roosevelt issued a General Order, authorizing Filipinos to be conscripted into the U.S. Armed Forces. In two weeks General MacArthur inducted 12 infantry regiments into the service of the U.S. Army, to supplement the existing Filipino Scouts, thousands of Filipinos were recruited.

In February 1942, President Roosevelt sent a message to General MacArthur at his headquarters in the Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor Island, in conjunction with the appeal of President Quezon for the immediate granting of independence. President Quezon realized that the archipelago was indefensible, and that if independence was granted, he could declare neutrality to avert unnecessary destruction of lives and properties. President Roosevelt's dispatch to General

MacArthur stated:

"American forces will continue to keep our flag flying in the Philippines so long there remains any possible resistance. I have made this decision in complete understanding of your military estimate that accompanied President Quezon's message to me. The duty and necessity of resisting Japanese aggression to the last, transcend in importance any other obligation now facing us in the Philippines. There has been gradually welded into a common front globe encircling opposition to the predatory powers that are seeking the destruction of individual liberty and freedom of government. We cannot afford this line broken in any particular theater. As the most powerful members of this coalition, we cannot display weakness in fact or spirit anywhere. I therefore give you the most difficult mission in full understanding of the desperate situation to which you may shortly be reduced. I authorize you to arrange for the capitulation of the Filipino elements of the defense forces when and if in your opinion that course appears necessary and always having in mind that the Filipino troops are in the service of the United States."

Twice the President of the United States made it crystal clear that Filipinos were in the service of the United States. The United States Veteran Affairs officials stated that they considered Filipino military service met the statutory definition of a United States veteran until Congress passed Public Laws 79-301 and 79-391, which were enacted in 1946. Public Law 79-301, the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, authorized a \$200 million appropriation to the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, with the provision that service in the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines should not be deemed to have been in service in the military or naval forces of the United States. Public Law 79-391, the second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, enacted in 1946, provided that service in the New Philippine Scouts was not deemed U.S. military service. This dastardly act by a dotting bunch of congressmen is reminiscent of the government's treaties with the

American Indians, most of which were broken. It is a sorry state of affairs when a government makes a promise to someone or a group of people and breaks that promise. Polls indicated the approval rating of Congress in 2006, by the American people was only 27 percent. The poll communicates a message what most Americans already know, a high number of members of Congress are lacking in honesty and integrity.

When Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Commissioner to the United States spoke, on 22 May 1946, in the Halls of Congress, he protested the enactment of the rider to Public Law 79-301 and even declared that the Commonwealth government rejects the \$200 Million earmarked for the Army of the Philippines on the grounds of injustice and discrimination. He talked in favor of passing the new House Bill H-6508 introduced by Rep. Rankin upon the instruction of President Harry Truman on 20 February 1946, right after the Rescission Act was enacted into law. In the preparation of the bill, Rep. Rankin was assisted by Secretary of War (Patterson), Administrator of Veterans Affairs (Omar Bradley) and High Commissioner to the Philippines (McNutt), at the request of President Truman. The bill did not pass despite the strong recommendation of President Truman.

President Truman was a good man but was not forceful enough, he saw the injustice by Congress, tried to correct it, and failed. If President Truman had taken Congress to task and demanded that the language in the bill be removed in regard to "Filipinos not be deemed to have been in service in the military forces of the United States" he would have prevented years of bitter recrimination, and hundreds of lawsuits against the government of the United States.

Members of the United States Congress that were instrumental in passage of both Public Laws, denying Filipino veterans their lawful rights, can be categorized as low life crooks with no compassion, they knew the Filipino veterans, (by law), were entitled to the benefits. It took 60 years for the Filipino veterans, lawyers, United States Congressmen, District Courts, Supreme Court and the President of

the United States to correct the dastardly and despicable acts against the Filipino veterans in 1946, by the United States Congress.

The Filipinos Vision Of US Naturalization

After the war ended, demobilized soldiers by the thousands, and displaced civilians milled around urban centers in search of work. There was hardly any work available. Many thought of going to America, "Land of Honey and Opportunity." Little did they know then that the door was already open to migration and U.S. citizenship.

They were unaware of a document that was prepared for the 7th International Philippine Studies Conference in Linden, Netherlands, which states:

"In 1942 Congress enacted the Second War Powers Act, a section of which amended the Nationality Act of 1940, to provide for the naturalization of non-citizens serving in the U.S. Armed Forces "during the present war." The law exempted some of the usual naturalization requirements, such as a specified period of residency or literacy and educational testing in English. The law also enabled those servicemen to be naturalized without appearing before a naturalization court in the United States and directed the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to send authorized officers to overseas military posts to do everything necessary to naturalize non-citizen servicemen on the spot. The deadline for applying for such privileges was 31 December 1946."

According to official accounts, the law was at first interpreted by the U.S. government as applicable to all Filipino Veterans, but the Philippine government allegedly expressed its concern to the Department of State regarding the risk of mass emigration. The U.S. government may have wanted to avoid the mass immigration of Filipinos, which was later blocked by the Tydings McDuffie law, but would nevertheless be overridden by the 1940 nationality act regarding war veterans.

The United States discouraged Filipino veterans naturalized in

every possible way imaginable, like refusing to accept applications, not sending officers in charge to confer citizenship, and not publicizing information about the nationality act. It was decided that only applications from former members of the Philippine Scouts would be accepted, since they were considered to have been an integral part of the US Armed Forces even before the war. As many as 4,000 Philippine Scout veterans, or one-third of those eligible, applied and were granted U.S. citizenship by the end of 1946, indicating that mass emigration could have occurred if other applications had not been refused.

Fil-Vets Resort to Courts

This seeming unofficial closure to veterans did not deter those who saw life in America as their salvation from the dire economic conditions at home. The long battle now to overcome the opposition of the INS began. It was not until 1970 however, that Filipino vets began going to court against the INS.

A celebrated case is the Judge Renfrew Decision, which states "Filipino veterans who served in the Philippine Scouts and the Commonwealth Army during World War II, and who failed to avail of the benefits of naturalization under Sections 701-702 of the Nationality Act of 1940, are entitled to American citizenship."

This is the ruling of U.S. District Court Judge Charles Renfrew in the case of 68 Filipino veterans whose petitions for naturalization were previously denied by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and subjected them to deportation from the United States.

The legal basis of the Court's decision was a finding that Filipinos were American nationals before 4 July 1946, when the Philippines were granted its formal independence. As American nationals they owed their allegiance to the United States of America, and therefore were also protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

An important aspect of the decision is the fact that it did not

confine the award of citizenship to those Filipino veterans who are in the United States, thus giving basis for qualified veterans living in the Philippines to apply under the legal effect of the ruling.

In another case in February 1992, 107 Filipino veterans sued the Immigration Department. Assisted by a prominent law firm, the group was assured of an out of court settlement, that INS would expedite their naturalization petition. With these precedents, other Fil-Vets who were denied their petitions, resorted to the courts.

The United States District Court ruled that Filipino veterans of World War II may be granted American citizenship, even if their names do not appear on the Revised Reconstructed Guerrilla Roster (RRGR), provided they present official Philippine records to show they served in a recognized guerrilla unit. The court noted that names were purposely deleted to save money for the United States and prevent a drain of Filipino manpower, waiting to go to the U.S. Veterans names in the Revised Reconstructive Guerrilla Roster was prepared by the United States Army after the war and was stored at Camp Aguinaldo in the Philippines.

These litigations of naturalization cases for many years, being handed out with one decision against the other, convinced the United States Supreme Court to agree that Circuit Federal Courts has the power to confer citizenship in violation of the limitations imposed by Congress. Clearly the Supreme Court was hinting to Congress that the rights of Fil-Vets in the United States were deprived. Many Fil-Vets in the United States were already being deported.

Jose Ibara Salcedo served in the Northern Luzon guerrilla movement and was involved in the fighting and was present during the surrender of Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita. When he filed for U.S. citizenship it was denied because his name was not on the Washington list. Like thousands before him, he had to go to court to settle the issue. He won his court battle and was granted citizenship at the age of 81 in 1982, thirty-six years after the war ended.

It took about 44 years of relentless struggle by Fil-Vets to

correct wrongdoing and get U.S. citizenship with the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990. How the earlier petitioners obtained their status is indeed worth recording in history.

VA Benefits for Filipino Veterans

The battle for VA benefits has been as tedious and time consuming as the naturalization fight. Many U.S. Senators and Congressmen have been successful in enacting laws that authorize some VA benefits for the World War II Filipino veterans. Despite the enactment of laws, there is still a lot of controversy about eligibility because of the laws passed by the 1946 Congress and a "Washington list" of eligible veterans.

Citizens of the Republic of the Philippines who serve today in the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for VA benefits under the same criteria as other U.S. military veterans. However, eligibility for VA benefits for Filipino veterans who served in recognized units of the Philippine Armed Forces - especially during World War II, is not so clear-cut.

The Philippine Islands gained their independence from the United States in 1946 following a transition period that was interrupted by World War II. During World War II, Filipinos served in a variety of units, some coming under direct U.S. military control, others having no ties to the U.S. military, and still others falling somewhere in the middle. Federal law, international treaties and court cases have taken up the question of which VA benefits should be given to various groups of World War II Filipino veterans.

The United States recognizes service in four groups as qualifying for some benefits:

Regular, or "Old," Philippine Scouts. Regular Philippine Scouts, or "old scouts," were members of a small component of the U.S. Army that was considered to be regular active service. Originally formed in

1901, long before any formal plan for Philippine independence, the Regular Philippine scouts were part of the U.S. Army throughout their existence.

Commonwealth Army of the Philippines. Also known as the Philippine Commonwealth Army, these veterans were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE), its members serving between July 26, 1941 and June 30, 1946, inclusive.

Guerrilla Service. People in this group served as guerrillas in USAFFE in resistance units recognized by and cooperating with U.S. forces between April 20, 1942, and June 30, 1946, inclusive.

New Philippine Scouts. New Philippine Scouts were Philippine citizens who served with the U.S. Armed Forces with the consent of the Philippine government and served between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, inclusive.

Entitlement to VA Benefits

Filipino veterans who served with U.S. forces in the Regular Philippine Scouts before October 6, 1945, are entitled to all VA benefits under the same criteria as apply to any veteran of U.S. military service. Those benefits are paid at the full-dollar rate and their dependents and survivors are entitled to benefits under the eligibility rules common to the survivors of all U.S. veterans.

Veterans of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, recognized guerrilla forces, and the New Philippine Scouts are entitled to compensation for service-connected disabilities. They are not entitled to disability pension for non-service connected disabilities,

nor are their survivors entitled to death pension.

Benefits for veterans of the Commonwealth Army, recognized guerrilla forces, and the New Philippine Scouts who live outside of the United States are paid at the rate of 50 cents for each dollar. However, these veterans who are residing in the United States receive full-dollar rate compensation payments if they are either U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens.

VA pays burial expenses to the survivors of certain veterans at the full-dollar rate for veterans who were residing in the U.S. on the date of death. Those veterans must also have been either United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens. This covers only Commonwealth Army and recognized guerrilla service. Eligibility applies to deaths on or after November 1, 2000, as this is based on legislation enacted in 2000. Burial benefits for these veterans also include internment in any national cemetery with available space, a burial flag, and a grave marker or headstone.

VA pays burial benefits to the survivors of New Philippine Scouts as well, at the full-dollar rate, if the veterans were lawfully residing in the United States on the date of death, and were United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens. Eligibility applies to death on or after December 16, 2003, based on legislation enacted in 2003.

The survivors of the Commonwealth Army, recognized guerrilla forces and New Philippine Scouts veterans who are entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (for example, if the veteran died during military service), are paid a rate of 50 cents for each dollar when residing in the Philippines. Survivors residing in the United States and who are either U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens are entitled to full-dollar payment.

Health Care Benefits

Filipino Commonwealth Army Veterans, including those who were recognized by authority of the U.S. Army as belonging to

organized Filipino guerrilla forces, and new Philippine Scouts are eligible for VA health care benefits in the U.S. on the same basis as U.S. veterans if they reside in the United States and are citizens or lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Old Philippine Scouts are eligible for VA health care benefits based upon their status as U.S. veterans.

In the Philippines, the Republic of the Philippine government provides medical care to eligible Filipino veterans. Filipino veterans are ineligible for VA care treatment services in the Philippines although the VA does provide them examinations in connection with determining their eligibility for VA compensation and pension benefits. U.S. veterans with service-connected conditions are eligible for medical care for both service-connected and non-service connected disabilities at the VA outpatient clinic in Manila. U.S. veterans there also are eligible for hospital care for service-connected disabilities, which is provided under VA contract.

Legislation enacted in 1973 permitted itself to provide medical treatment of service-connected conditions (and non-service connected illnesses in certain conditions) for Philippine Army and New Philippine Scout veterans. The half rates of compensation to most Filipino veterans living in the Philippines were intended to reflect that the Philippines had a lower cost of living than the United States. Since World War II, however, many Filipino veterans and their dependents have immigrated to the United States.

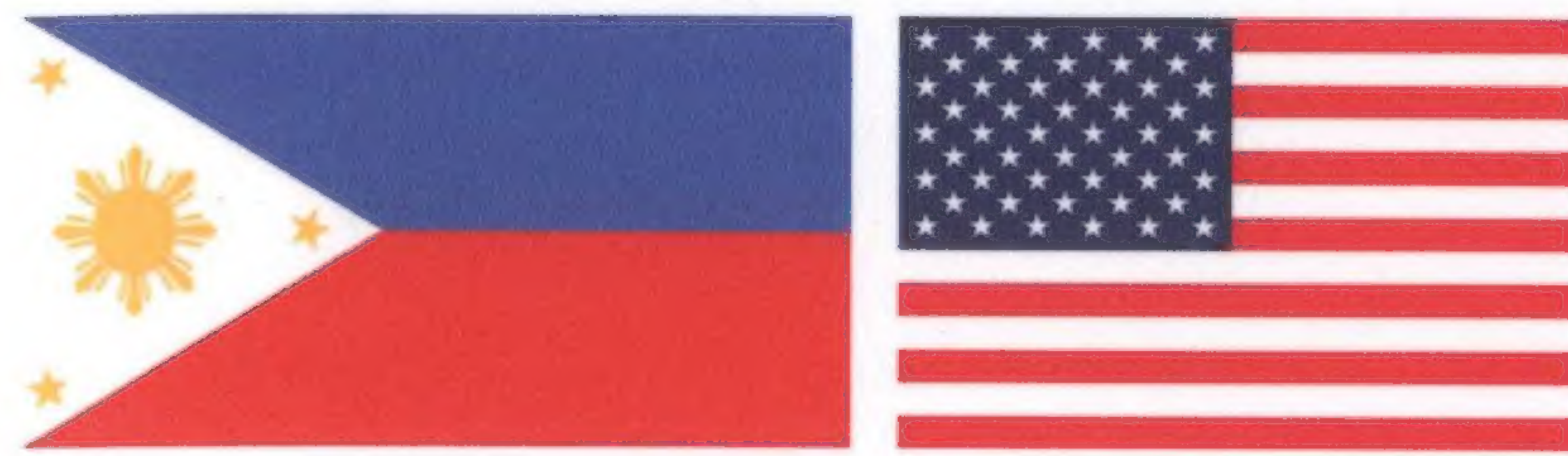
Legislation enacted in 2000 provided full-dollar rate compensation payments to veterans of the Commonwealth Army or recognized guerrilla forces residing in the U.S. if they are either U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens. Another 2000 law authorized payment of burial benefits on behalf of veterans in these groups where they had been U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens.

In 2003, Congress passed legislation that expanded compensation benefit payments to the full-dollar rate for New Philippine Scouts

residing in the U.S. if they are either U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens. This legislation also expanded burial benefit payments to the full-dollar rate for New Philippine Scouts who at the time of death were residing in the U.S. and were U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens. It also expanded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits to the full-dollar rate for survivors of veterans who served in the new Philippine Scouts, Philippine Commonwealth Army or recognized guerrilla forces, if the survivor is residing in the U.S. and is either a U.S. citizen or a legally admitted resident alien.

HOLOCAUST IN MANILA

HOMER DUNCAN

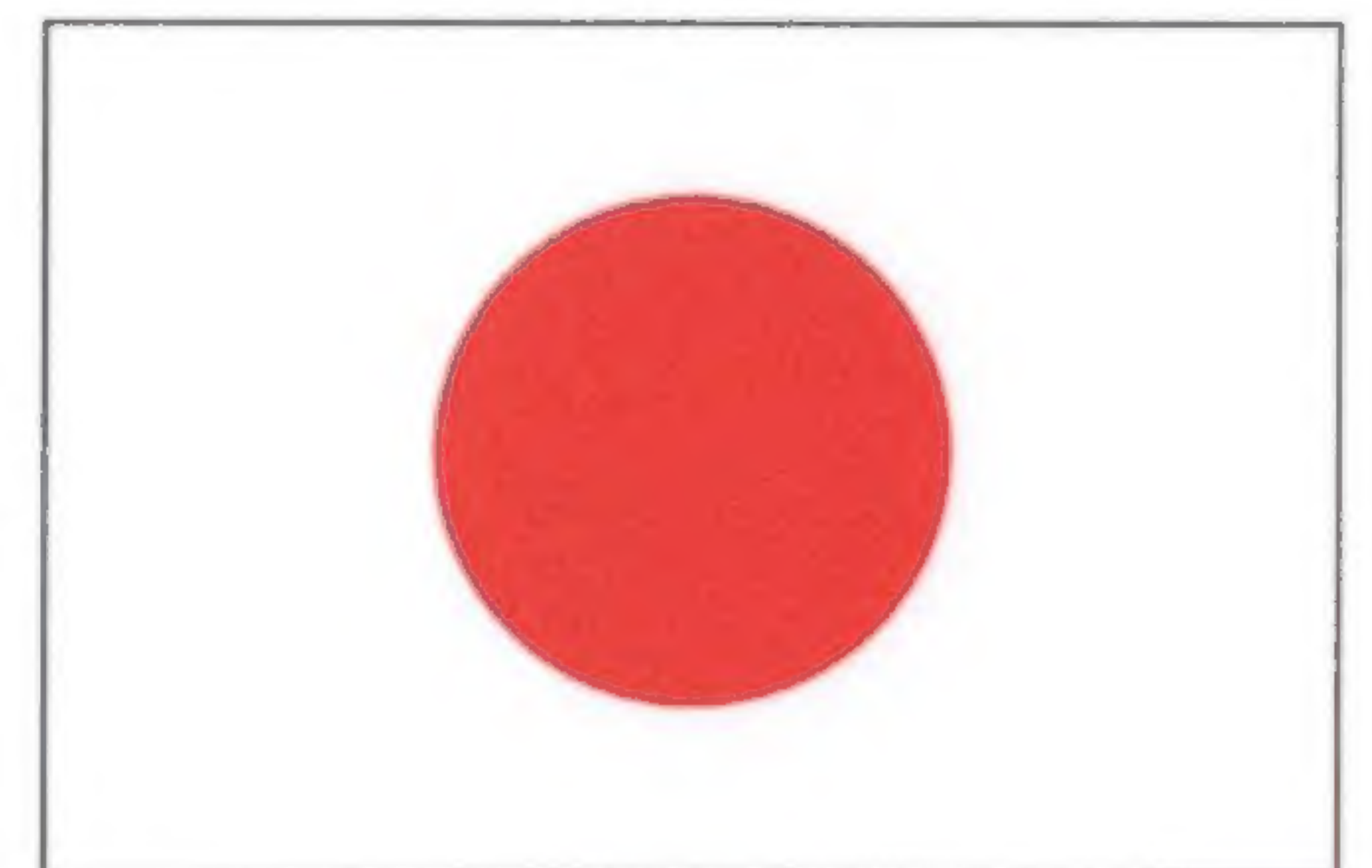


HOLOCAUST IN MANILA DURING WORLD WAR

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HOMER DUNCAN



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